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Orthodox converts made to wait months for certificates

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Over 200 Orthodox converts have been waiting for more than three months for their conversion certificates from the Chief Rabbinate, because of the changeover in functions between Askenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron.

In reaction, leaders of the country's Reform and Conservative movements said yesterday that if this is the way Orthodox converts are being treated by the Chief Rabbinate, it is clear there is no validity to the proposed recommendations of the Neeman Committee suggesting a joint conversion institute and graduates being converted under the auspices of the Chief Rabbinate.

In the changeover on 1 Nissan (March 28), responsibility for conversion went from Bakshi-Doron to Lau, who became president of the Rabbinical Court of Appeals. Rabbi Yitzhak Ohana, who is responsible for conversion in the Chief Rabbinate, said the delay is due to the fact that Lau wants to institute changes of both "substance and procedure" in the conversion process, but he would not say what the changes are.

"He does not want to make it either stricter or more lenient, just different," Ohana said. According to Ohana, all those who have undergone ceremonies in the special rabbinical courts for conversion would eventually receive their certificates. But as long as they do not have them, converts cannot marry a Jew, and those who are not citizens often find themselves without a visa, making it impossible for them to work or be covered by health insurance.

At least one convert, Nadav Werner of Haifa, has been waiting since before Succot for his certificate. Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Tsomet Institute for Technology and Halacha, who directs the special ulpanim for conversion, confirmed that Werner had been forced to wait, at first because his file had been misplaced and later because of the overall delay.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of Israel's Conservative movement, said he was shocked to learn that the Chief Rabbinate is transgressing a specific commandment, not to torment the convert. "This only strengthens the need to take from the Chief Rabbinate the monopoly on personal status in general and conversion in particular," Bandel said.

The situation, he said, proved that the Neeman Committee had not reached a solution to the problem of conversion and only makes his movement more steadfast in its court battle to have its own conversions recognized as valid. Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that Lau has to face some tough questions. Until now, Regev said, Lau has not related to questions regarding conversion, saying it was the realm of Bakshi-Doron. "[Lau] has to say what his position is," Regev said.

1st-quarter jobless rate rises to 8.4%

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment totaled a seasonally adjusted 8.4 percent in the first quarter of the year, one percentage point higher than its level at the same time last year and 0.8 higher than at the end of the previous quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Some 189,000 people are now without work, putting the rate of joblessness at its highest level since the last quarter of 1994. This time last year there were 161,000 people out of work and actively seeking employment — a 7.4% unemployment rate.

The overall size of the workforce has increased from 2,183,000 to 2,255,000, a rise of 3.3%, while the number of those working increased 2.1%.

At the end of 1997, the jobless rate stood at 7.6% of the workforce. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said yesterday that much of the blame lies with the Bank of Israel's high interest/low inflation policy.

The central bank strongly denies that its monetary policy is the cause of rising unemployment but suggests that the problem is structural, with many people falling victim to the change from traditional to high-tech industries.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to heed the pleas of the jobless and pump state funds into the workforce rather than improving the road and rail infrastructure.

Edelstein was referring to a recently approved NIS 1 billion Treasury spending proposal, which he said failed to address the real needs of the population.

The figures were published while the Manufacturers Association was hosting an emergency meeting of 400 business leaders concerned with the state of the economy.

"We've heard cries from the hearts of broken businesses, a wall-to-wall coalition of drivers, merchants, hoteliers, industrialists," said association president Dan Propper, who called on the government to change direction and encourage growth in the economy.

Responding, Neeman attacked those critical of government and central bank policy.

"Protests and meetings aimed principally at the media don't help solve the problem," he said. "We need to concentrate on the development of the economy."

Netanyahu said yesterday that the government "is committed to fighting unemployment."

He said the government had succeeded in bringing down inflation and the budget deficit and has taken actions toward privatization and reduced government intervention in the economy.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) meets Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Cairo yesterday.

Second US report on World War II loot

Neutral countries helped sustain Nazis with materials paid for with stolen gold

By MARILYN HENRY

WASHINGTON — Neutral nations supplied the Nazis with hundreds of millions of dollars in critical materials, even when there was no evidence that these nations faced German peril, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said yesterday, as he released the second American historical report on Nazi loot.

Many of these actions met the legal definition of neutrality, Eizenstat said. But, "whatever the motivations and however acceptable by the standards of the time, the cumulative trade of the World War II European neutral countries helped to sustain the Nazi war effort by supplying key materials

to Germany essential to their conduct of the war."

Much of the material was paid for with gold the Nazis looted from European banks and Holocaust victims and that passed through the Swiss National Bank, says the report, called "US and Allied Wartime and Postwar Negotiations with Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey on Looted Gold and German External Assets and US Concerns about the Fate of the Wartime Treasure."

The report said that although Switzerland was the Nazi banker, the other neutrals provided the Nazis with essential goods. Sweden supplied Germany with iron ore and ball bearings; Portugal

and Spain provided tungsten; Turkey sold chrome. Argentina also was included in the report, not as a recipient of Nazi gold, but as a helpful Nazi sympathizer.

Much of the information on the neutrals was revealed in the May 1997 report. The two reports taken together, Eizenstat said, illuminate the picture of both financing and trade for the Germans.

The five neutral countries handled \$500 million in assets for the German government, but also traded with the Allies, which pointed to the problematic question of neutrality.

"This is a historical review; it is not an accusation or an indictment," Eizenstat said in a briefing at the State Department.

Indeed, the report seemed more cautious than the first one, which accused Switzerland of violating its neutrality and prolonging the war.

"There was no uniform or absolute neutrality in World War II," Eizenstat said yesterday. After the war, Switzerland turned over \$58m. in looted gold; Sweden returned \$15m.; and Portugal gave back \$7.2m. Spain and Turkey did not turn over anything, the report said.

Although the US was irritated that the neutrals had resisted Allied pressure to stop trading with the Nazis, the report noted the neutrals' "mixed pattern of actions."

The neutrals offered aid to more than 250,000 Jews fleeing the Nazis, Eizenstat said.

Mordechai: It's time for decisions

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

The implementation of the second withdrawal can no longer be delayed, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday after meeting President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo. The two discussed advancing the negotiations with the Palestinians.

"The most important thing I said is that the time has come to make decisions," Mordechai told reporters before flying home. "And we have to make them on the basis of the information we have, to advance the peace process with the minimum of damage."

Mubarak, at a brief joint press conference, noted a shared military background with his guest, but gave scant details of their talks.

"Only those who fought in the wars know the meaning of peace," said Mubarak, a former air force commander.

Mordechai described the meeting as "very warm and friendly." "Even if we didn't see eye to eye, the very fact that we met was very important," Mordechai said.

He said he explained to Mubarak that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "making a great effort in very difficult conditions to advance the peace process."

"We spoke of the intentions and directions and how to make positions more flexible, how to prod the Palestinians to see the figures in the right light and fulfill their part of the agreements," Mordechai said.

Last January, Mordechai threatened to resign if there was no decision for a second withdrawal in the West Bank within three months. He has not carried out this threat, even though there has been no progress in the matter.

Aides close to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said that Mordechai's trip was fruitless, since he is not able to have an impact within Netanyahu's government.

"Although we think Mordechai is a positive force inside the government, we think he is a coward," said an aide in Barak's inner circle. "He said he would leave if there was no second withdrawal, but he is not showing any signs of leaving."

"He is helping to create a certain illusion in Egypt as if he is able to deliver. And he is not able to deliver. We are worried that Mubarak is telling his people that he convinced Mordechai, and that tomorrow he will do the job. But he won't."

Sources in Netanyahu's office said that Mordechai was not engaged in freelance diplomacy and had gone to Cairo in coordination with the prime minister, to explain Israel's opposition to the US compromise on a West Bank withdrawal.

Netanyahu told parliamentary reporters that "significant progress" has been made in the diplomatic process but "the task has not yet been completed."

"When the task has been completed, I will go with this agreement with all the strength, all the

force, and all the determination with which I have acted until now."

Netanyahu said that his efforts to bring about an agreement with the Palestinians are completely divorced from coalition considerations and concerns over whether or not it would have majority backing in the Knesset.

"The agreement is not about the coalition but for the State of Israel," he said.

Meanwhile, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a top adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the Palestinians will ask the Arab countries to convene a summit whether or not Israel accepts the US redeployment proposal.

Abu Rudeineh said he expects the US ideas to be made public "in the coming four or five days," and that a decision on whether to hold a summit would be made at the same time.

The American plan, never made public but widely leaked, calls for a phased withdrawal from 13 percent of the West Bank in exchange for Palestinian steps to increase security for Israelis. Mordechai

Weizman regrets pullback delay, Page 2

has urged a "double-digit" withdrawal, which appears to back the US proposal.

At a Labor faction meeting yesterday, Barak said Netanyahu is wasting the opportunity to bring about peace. He said he believes that Iran will have a nuclear bomb within six years and Iraq, three years after that. Israel must reach a peace agreement before more Arab countries have nuclear capability, Barak said.

In Cairo, Mordechai was warmly received. Defense Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi congratulated him on the recent birth of his son and said: "You bring great honor to all defense ministers in the world."

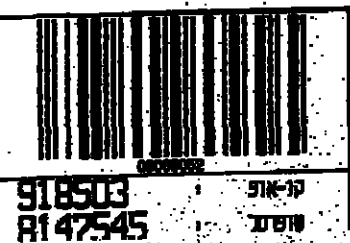
Mordechai was joined in the meeting with Mubarak by his military aide, Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidor, and David Haham, his new adviser on Arab affairs. Joining Mubarak were Tantawi, and Mubarak's chief political adviser Osama el-Baz.

El-Baz said the talks also "touched upon" Israel's nuclear capabilities. But Mordechai denied to reporters that the matter came up. "That wasn't the issue of our discussion," Mordechai said. "We did not speak of the crises of India and Pakistan. We spoke of the crises in the Middle East."

Mordechai dismissed as "stupid" reports of plans for an Israeli attack on Pakistani nuclear installations.

During the joint press conference, most questions posed to Mubarak and Mordechai dealt with nuclear proliferation.

"Now I demand that there becomes a principle to eliminate all nuclear weapons in the world on a phase of several years," Mubarak told reporters.



NEWS

in brief

Relief for Afghanistan leaves tomorrow

A plane load of blankets, tents, and food for victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan will leave Israel tomorrow. Foreign Ministry officials said it was decided yesterday that Israel would charter a cargo plane, possibly from the IAF, which will fly the supplies to Tashkent. The supplies will then be handed over to relief agencies which will transfer them to Afghanistan. No Israelis will be entering Afghanistan.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Vatican, El Al to cooperate on 2000 travel

El Al and the Vatican have signed an agreement to coordinate flights of pilgrims visiting Israel for millennium celebrations, Israel Radio reported last night.

The report said El Al expects the agreement to allow it to fly in tens of thousands of pilgrims in 2000, when Christianity begins its third millennium. The airline plans to add six planes to its fleet to handle the additional passengers, the radio said. Some five million visitors are expected in the country during 2000.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Cabinet, Knesset to ask for Pollard pardon

The cabinet and Knesset will ask US President Bill Clinton to pardon Jonathan Pollard, the convicted Israeli spy, as a humanitarian gesture coinciding with and inspired by Israel's 50th anniversary.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who revealed this yesterday in a speech in Jerusalem, said the finishing touches are being put on the petition's text, which is expected to win the cabinet's unanimous endorsement and an overwhelming majority of MKs signatures.

"Since Israel recognized Jonathan Pollard as an Israeli agent, every citizen is obligated to take up his cause and act on his behalf," Edelstein said.

Jay Bushinsky

PM: Eurovision will be held in Jerusalem

The Eurovision Song Contest will take place in Jerusalem next year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reassured reporters yesterday. "This event will take place in Jerusalem. Period. Those who want to come will come and those who don't won't. I'll go," he said. Netanyahu answered a question about the suggestion by MK Yona Yahav (Labor) that the Eurovision be held in Haifa instead. Yahav said several countries are unlikely to participate if it is in Jerusalem and by holding it in Haifa it could serve to focus international attention on the north and attract pilgrims from around the world.

Liat Collins

New law bans memorials to terrorists

The Knesset yesterday passed on final reading a bill by Ran Cohen (Meretz) which bans the establishment of memorials to terrorists. The bill is aimed at removing the memorial trappings around Baruch Goldstein's grave. The bill passed 41-4 with one abstention. Several Likud MKs and Moledet's Benny Elon voted in favor. It was opposed by three Shas MKs, apparently as a reaction to it being Cohen's bill, and Yisrael Ba'alya's Yurit Stern.

Liat Collins

Settler leaders meet US Consul

Settler leaders met yesterday with US Consul General John Herbst and discussed the US role in peace negotiations and settlers' concern over how their communities will be affected by a second IDF redeployment in the West Bank.

Yehudit Tayar, a spokeswoman for the settlers, said the 90 minute meeting was frank and open. She said she hopes the gathering had provided American officials with a better understanding of the issues.

Margot Dudkevitch

Six illegal buildings demolished

Two buildings in eastern Jerusalem and four more just beyond the city limits were demolished yesterday for having been built without permits. The four included one in A-Ram, one near Kafr Bido, and two in Nebi Samwil. The two inside the city were in Jabal Mukaber and A-Tur. No incidents were reported at the demolitions.

Elli Wohlgeleitner

Olmert to boycott Italian reception

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will not take part in a reception at the Italian Consulate today, to protest separate parties being held for Jews and Arabs by Italian Consul Enrico Nardi. Olmert said in a statement that the policy of separate receptions "negates the immense efforts which are being made today in Jerusalem to continue the activities... in which Jews, Arabs, and various other ethnic groups all participate together."

Elli Wohlgeleitner

Deputy mayor's remand extended

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court has extended by three days the remand of Umm el-Fahm deputy mayor Suleiman Ighbarieh, who is suspected of serving on the board of a Palestinian investment company that channeled funds to Hamas. Police investigators told the court that they need more time to review all the material they have gathered. They said that Ighbarieh was involved in extending loans to Hamas officials at favorable rates, and transferring money to organizations with links to Hamas.

Elli Wohlgeleitner

Hamas to open office in Khartoum

The Sudanese government will permit Hamas to open an office in the capital, the Khartoum governor announced yesterday. He said that "the Islamic rulers in the country also gave Hamas a plot of land and a farm in order to fund the continuing Palestinian jihad."

Ilim

SLA troops find body of Hizbullah commander

South Lebanese Army troops yesterday discovered the body of the commander of a Hizbullah squad who was killed in a clash with IDF and SLA troops last week.

Fighting continued in the region, with several mortar attacks on IDF and SLA positions in various parts of the zone. There were no casualties.

David Rudge

Police: No case against Kirschenbaum

The police has recommended that the State Attorney's Office not indict Mordechai Kirschenbaum, former director-general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. The decision closes a three-month probe of suspicions he had accepted bribes.

The squad's investigation concerned whether Kirschenbaum had, in exchange for bribes, given preference for producing shows to a company he owned before serving as IBA chief. But it did not find wrongdoing on Kirschenbaum's part, and also said there was no evidence against officials of the company.

Ilim

Pedestrian killed in Tirat Hacarmel accident

Esther Azugai, 77, was killed when she was run over by a car at the entrance to Tirat Hacarmel last night. The car was on its way to the town when it struck her as she crossed the road at a pedestrian crossing near the industrial area. Police detained the driver for questioning and are investigating the circumstances of the accident.

Ilim

Weizman 'regrets' pullback delay

Says lack of cabinet decision could bring about unfortunate results

By HAIM SHAPIRO

President Ezer Weizman yesterday expressed concern that the cabinet did not make a decision on the scope of the IDF's next pullback at its weekly meeting on Monday.

Speaking to Israel Radio from Beit She'an, where he attended a ceremony officially granting it municipality status, he said that postponing a decision could be bringing on unfortunate results.

"I view this with great concern and I regret it," Weizman said. "And I think that the longer we drag this out, the more we are liable to bring about unpleasant situations."

He added that he was happy that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and hoped he would succeed in persuading him to be patient in the effort to reach a solution to the withdrawal issue.

"I think a lot of patience is called for and that unless a solution is found there could be

an explosion, and that would be bad," Weizman said.

Regarding the Pakistani nuclear tests, Weizman noted that it was clear that this would happen. However he added that this was a new situation and it has to be dealt with seriously. He expressed the hope that the situation might spur us to achieve a situation of coexistence with our neighbors.

Later, at a ceremony at Beit Hanassi in which 17 judges were sworn in, Weizman said there is no truth in the rumors that Israel

intended to attack Pakistan's nuclear reactors. He added that the Pakistani nuclear program should concern Israel less than its relations with its neighbors and that the situation would be better if its relations with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians were better.

Among those sworn in was Dhukan Attawneh, the first Beduin to become a judge. He is to head the Moslem Sharia Court in Beersheba, a position which until now was only filled once a week by a visiting kadi from Jaffa.

Arabs vow to thwart Israel at Euro-Med meeting

BEIRUT (AP) - Arab nations yesterday vowed to work toward preventing Israel from getting economic benefits from Europe as long as it follows a "hard-line stand" on the peace process.

"The reason for the crisis in the peace process is the current Israeli government," Arab League secretary-general Esmet Abdel Meguid said.

He was speaking at a joint news conference by foreign ministers of Arab nations who are preparing for the European-Mediterranean conference of foreign ministers in Palermo today and tomorrow.

Israel is participating along with Cyprus, the Palestinian Authority, and eight Arab countries from the Mediterranean basin.

Libya will not attend. Europe will be represented by 15 members of the European Union.

The Arabs fear that Israel will try to persuade Europe to ignore the faltering peace process while boosting business links.

But ministers of the Arab participants, who met Monday and yesterday in Beirut to chart a common strategy, have decided to stand firm against Israel, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said.

The Arab ministers agreed that it is "impossible to separate politics from the economy," he said.

The European Union gives \$2.3 billion in annual aid to the region, including Israel.



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa (right) and his Syrian counterpart Farouk Shara stroll along Beirut's sea front at Ein Mreisseh yesterday, before a meeting of Arab Mediterranean countries to chart a common strategy ahead of the European-Mediterranean conference in Italy.

(Reuters)

Barak: No decision on safety net before redeployment proposal

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Labor Party will not decide whether to support a cabinet decision on the second redeployment in the Knesset before a proposal is made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday.

"I don't answer to speculation. When and if there's a concrete pullback proposal which both the Americans and Palestinians accept, Labor's leadership will decide on its position," he said. Commenting on the many in the party who favor providing a parliamentary safety net on redeployment, Barak said: "It's a democratic party and each member has the right to his opinion."

The Labor leadership discussed the issue on Monday night, following calls by coalition whip Meir Sheerit (Likud) and The Third Way for Labor to ensure Netanyahu a Knesset majority on a pullback. It was decided to put off the decision until a realistic proposal was made to the Knesset.

However, senior sources in both the Likud and Labor said that Labor would not vote against a pullback proposal, should one be presented to the Knesset.

Meanwhile, the mutual exchange of attacks between Barak and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg is raising a storm in the party. The affair was triggered off by Burg's implication in a recent interview with Channel 2 that he might run against Barak for party leader.

"It depends on who has the best chance of cracking the right-wing bloc and bringing Labor to power," Burg said.

Earlier this week Barak called him a "subversive cuck, who hasn't built a house or planted a tree." Yesterday Barak dismissed the issue as unworthy of comment and said he hopes the group of party members which took it upon itself "to bring Burg back into the fold" will succeed.

Burg, who was not invited to the leadership forum, retorted: "How could it be so unimportant if Barak prepared his comments about me

in writing, and a whole team is formed to bring me back? Maybe part of the team will join me. "I have always voiced my opinions openly, without fear. I believe anyone can learn from his mistakes and the way to a dialogue is open."

Many Labor MKs understood Barak's annoyance with Burg, but thought his reaction was exaggerated. "Barak reacted to what was almost a provocation on Burg's part," MK Avraham Shohat said. "Burg deserves two slaps on the face or a hand on the rear."

"Calling Burg subversive is getting carried away," MK Hagai Meron said. "There is no need to panic. Every soldier has a general's baton in his bag, and Burg wants to be a general."

"There is no need to go overboard," said MK Haim Ramon. "Burg's comments are sometimes irritating. He's made my life a misery more than once. But as party chairman, Barak cannot afford the luxury of getting annoyed."

Coalition MKs stay away as Labor motion falls short

By LIAT COLLINS

Most coalition MKs absented themselves during yesterday's no-confidence motion on "two-years since Benjamin Netanyahu came to power."

As expected, the opposition's motion failed to garner the 61 votes needed to bring the government down. It passed 41-6, with three abstentions.

In answer to a question by parliamentary reporters, Netanyahu derided the opposition effort and said it did not faze him.

"No-confidence motions have been turned into a game," he said. "The opposition knows it does not have a majority (to topple the government) and files one every week knowing that. Certain elements in the coalition, knowing this too, also don't come."

MK Uzi Baram, presenting Labor's motion of no-confidence, said: "The most credible sentence you (Netanyahu) have made all year is 'I've made many mistakes.' The least credible is 'Now I'm fixing them.'"

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, answering on behalf of the coalition, said the government would continue to take the country towards a safe peace and healthy economy.

This was the second week in a row that Meir Sheerit, the coalition whip, boycotted the vote, apparently to demonstrate its insignificance and his protest against the opposition making weekly no-confidence motions. Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt said, "Meir Sheerit preferred not to gather the coalition MKs in the plenum in an attempt to try to reduce the ridicule of the prime minister, who suffers from the lack of the Knesset's confidence."

Before the vote, The Third Way, a party in the coalition, announced it would be absent to protest the lack of progress in the peace process. The Third Way's whip, Yehuda Harel, abstained and the other MKs did not turn up.

None of the NRP MKs were present and several toured Har Homa instead.

ARRIVALS

The YPC welcomed Peter Goldstein of London, Vice President of the Board, and his wife Edna, on the occasion of their son's wedding.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Guest speaker: Mr. Teddy Kollek.

Book Department

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NEWSLINE

with Elad Shraga, founder of the Movement for Quality Government

Why do you think Supreme Court President Aharon Barak chose this time to confront the critics of his "activism?"

Judges don't have many opportunities to respond to their critics. The problem is that most of the time judges operate with their hands tied behind their backs. Did you hear Barak respond to the accusations of (MK Aryeh) Deri, (Rabbi Ovadia) Yoseph or (Israel Bar Chairman Dori) Horev-Shai? It's part of the judges' ethical code. They don't respond as a rule.

They usually don't present their position in detail and that is a problem. We end up hearing only one side. We only hear the one who is on the attack, not the one being attacked.

The judges have no routine access to the public and that creates a vacuum. Some public organizations, like ours, try to fill the vacuum and defend the judges. But the judges themselves refuse to be drawn into the public debate. That is their philosophy, for better or worse. So, when there is a ceremonial event like the swearing in of judges, it's important for them to use the opportunity to speak out.

Do you think that Barak's comments also referred to the recent threats on the lives of judges?

I have no doubt that at least some of the threats stem from the fact that the criticism of the court has hurt its credibility. Barak, of course, was referring to a different type of criticism – constitutional criticism. However, that criticism has led to an erosion in the status of the rule of law, including the status of judges and the state attorney's office, and that has opened the way for violent people to act as they are now doing.

Barak did not address this problem in his speech, and that's too bad. We mustn't forget what has happened in the last few days. But the threats didn't begin now. There were threats against justices who presided over the Bar-Ilan Street petition. And there was the mob that broke into the Supreme Court after the indictment of Deri in the Bar-On Affair. Not enough was done then to root out this cancer.

Some people say that Barak has gone too far in the "constitutional revolution." Don't you think his strong words will only serve to further alienate such people?

Barak did not initiate the constitutional revolution. It is the Knesset that legislated the Basic Laws: Human Dignity and Freedom and Freedom of Occupation. He is dealing with the material that the Knesset gave him. One cannot accuse him or the courts of overstepping their mandate.

Whoever knows Barak knows that he is a modest person. He is not the man to create a distant elitism.

On the other hand, it is time to tell it like it is – his critics do not understand the constitutionalism that has been introduced into the Israeli system. The problem is, I doubt if his critics understand it any better now than they did before Barak made his speech.

Dan Izenberg

Barak calls court's critics ignorant

By DAN IZENBERG

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak vigorously defended the court against its ideological critics yesterday and said that much of their criticism was based on ignorance and misunderstanding.

Speaking at Beit Hanasi at a swearing-in ceremony for 17 judges, Barak said: "Some of the criticism leveled against us is unworthy. It is criticism based on a lack of information about the substance of the matter; lack of information about the law which applies; lack of information about the options we have; and lack of information about what is happening throughout the Western world."

Barak, who paid tribute to the court's contribution to justice and the rule of law over the past 50 years, entitled his speech: "They gave us all they had to the State of Israel."

In his remarks he drew a direct

line between the court's judgments in the early years, when many of the human rights precedents were set by judicial ruling, and the court's rulings today, based on the Knesset's human rights legislation.

"I am proud of the democratic character of our state," Barak said. "We frequently stress that we share common values and basic concepts with western democracies like the US, England and France. Who gave us these basic values. Who solidified human rights in Israel? Who fortified Israeli democracy in its substantive sense? It was mainly the courts."

"Of course, it could not have happened without an appropriate legal infrastructure. Of course, without the readiness of the Israeli public to internalize these values, the court's rulings would have remained unapplied rhetoric."

Proceeding to the present, Barak warned that criticism based on ignorance would eventually harm



Aharon Barak

(Flash 90)

Israeli democracy.

"He who claims that the court, in interpreting a law, must not consider values, does not understand the judicial task. There is no judgment without values, here and throughout the world."

"How can we interpret expressions like 'justice,' 'bona fides,' 'reasonableness' – all of which appear in the law – without con-

sidering values? Can we interpret the words 'the values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state' without considering values?"

As for the accusations that the court should not rule on political matters, Barak said: "Whoever says we should not rule on matters that have political implications, does not understand the rule of law. Many judicial decisions... have political implications. But that is not enough to block the need – indeed, the obligation, to adjudicate them. For if we do not, how will be able to protect human rights, the rule of law, the balance of powers?"

"It is crucial to distinguish between the considerations of the court, which are not political, and the consequences of the adjudication, which may be political."

"Should we agree to adjudicate by the public [i.e. the Knesset] rather than the judges

just because the results of a criminal trial may have political implications? Should we agree that the government use its power to deprive an Arab or a Jew of his rights without a trial, just because the trial would have political implications? Should we agree to corrupt elections just because a trial on the legality of the elections would have political implications?"

Barak added that anyone who says the court is acting undemocratically when it rejects a Knesset law on the grounds that it contradicts the basic laws "does not know what democracy is and does not understand what a constitution and basic laws are..."

"Whoever argues against judicial review of the constitutionality of legislation on the grounds that it is anti-democratic makes no distinction between formal and substantive democracy and does not understand that democracy is a much richer concept than just majority rule."

PM to visit Australia

By JAY BUSHENSKY

Plans are being laid for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Australia in mid-August, but final dates have not yet been set by officials in Jerusalem and Canberra.

The trip may take place August 10," one of Netanyahu's senior aides said yesterday, but Australian Prime Minister John Howard was quoted by the Associated Press as saying August 14 was "under consideration."

It is not certain at this stage whether any stopovers will be worked into the prime minister's itinerary, but New Zealand was mentioned as a possibility.

The aide also did not rule out Singapore.

Howard told the Australian parliament he intends to take advantage of Netanyahu's presence to urge him to continue seeking a peace settlement.

"Israel carries a special responsibility, along with the representatives of the Palestinians, and I respect the rights and the aspirations of the Palestinian people and will use my opportunities and my authority to press that view on the prime minister of Israel," Howard told parliament. "I will certainly be pressing very strongly on the Israeli government the need for it to play its part."

IDF officers touring Poland help in car crash

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

A group of officers at the IDF's Staff and Command College, visiting the death camps in Poland, came to the aid of five Poles injured in an auto accident, the army said yesterday.

The group witnessed the accident and many of the 80 officers got out of their buses to help extract the injured and give them first aid until ambulances could arrive.

The officers, including a doctor

and former medics, even used medical equipment they had brought with them to help save the lives of the Polish travelers, the army said.

One young woman died of her injuries, and two people suffered serious injuries.

The group, which had been on a week-long visit to Poland, stayed with the injured until an ambulance arrived over an hour later.

The officers returned to Israel over the weekend, the army said.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BUGH

The Histadrut elections

"Yesterday we entered the Knesset... Today we have an opportunity to take the control lever of the Histadrut in our hands to defend the rights of new immigrants." This appeal to Russian voters by Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sharmansky ran in all the Russian newspapers. Yisrael Ba'aliya will support Amir Peretz who heads the joint Labor-Likud list.

As Alex Prilutsky wrote in *Vesti*, Peretz is very interested in the Russian vote and made many promises to woo it, including 10 percent of Histadrut offices. Peretz will also make a public apology to immigrants "for the many years of neglecting their problems."

Among his other promises are to exert control over private employment agencies – known to exploit new immigrants – and to supplement National Insurance Institute pensions for those who worked only a short time before retirement.

Yisrael Ba'aliya rejected Geshet-Meretz candidate, Maxim Levy because, when he was chairman of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, he "blocked all proposals on behalf of improving the social status of new immigrants."

Bezael Schiff, financial director of Yisrael Ba'aliya, in his interview with *Vzryv*, stressed that Russian immigrants have a more positive attitude toward the Histadrut than they did several years ago, explaining that when they first arrived here,

they were indifferent because they had just arrived from the USSR, where "trade unions served the Communist Party, not the workers."

Opposition for Israel?

The Labor Party has not accepted its defeat and is trying to undermine the government, wrote Georg Mordel in *Vzryv*, claiming that "such a situation would be impossible in the Western world."

The leaders of the opposition, using their influence in the mass media, "constantly try to put more pressure on Israel to make immediate concessions to meet [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat's demands."

Yossi Beilin and Shimon Peres frequently visit Washington, Amman, and Arafat, said Mordel, reminding us that after Arafat signed the "peace obligations" he has continued to use terror tactics to attain the goals of the PLO and Hamas.

"Our peacekeepers demand that the government speed up the return of the territories" to those who are perpetrating acts of terror which cost 250 Israelis their lives after the Oslo Accords.

In *Novosti Nedeli*, Boris Levin presents another view, criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy of "keeping a large part of the territories" and opposing the creation of a Palestinian state. It is "very naive to hope for abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant... even the moderate Palestinian leaders have

no inclination to do this," concluded Levin.

In *Nascha Strana*, an editorial commenting on the recent visit of US House Speaker Newt Gingrich recalled the words of former secretary of state Warren Christopher: "Israel has the right to determine the scope of withdrawal from the territories."

The editorial stressed Gingrich's opinion that in the peace process, the US must act as "a mediator, not a third party."

The police and the Russians

"The Israel Police was not ready to receive a big wave of aliya," wrote Lazar Danovich, editor of *Kaleidoscope*, the weekly magazine of *Novosti Nedeli*.

At a recent session of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, police officials tried to explain their tense relations with the Russian immigrants by alleging that "new immigrants are ignorant of the law and lack a knowledge of Hebrew." Danovich commented that the police treat new immigrants "like suspicious strangers..."

While this attitude toward newcomers may be understandable in other countries, it is not acceptable in Israel, which boasts a Law of Return.

By LIAT COLLINS

At the request of MK Aryeh Deri, the Knesset House Committee will only decide next week on whether or not to vote on postponement of the law to lift his parliamentary immunity. Deri is requesting that the decision be postponed until the end of the ongoing trial on fraud charges.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein wants Deri's immunity lifted so he can face charges of illegally channeling funds, via the Interior Ministry, to Shas-associated groups. The Knesset committee discussed the matter for the third week running yesterday.

Although there appeared to be a majority in favor of Deri's request, it was Deri who surprisingly asked for the extra week before the vote. Asked by reporters why he changed his mind, Deri replied: "There are decisions one must make in life on your own. I heard what was said. We are only human and opinions can change. One hears new things and has new thoughts. I want a few days to think it over."

Deri was apparently referring to what Rubinstein had told the committee – that it should act to lift his immunity immediately or it would seem like it was trying to manipulate the statute of limitations.

Deri's lawyer Yigal Arnon told

the committee of the precedent of the Aharon Abuhazzeira case, in which the High Court itself said that being involved in court proceedings could be grounds for postponing the start of a case on another matter.

He again said that the statute of limitations is not relevant in this case because it is frozen once it has reached the Knesset commit-

tee stage.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar said that the MKs are empowered to decide to postpone lifting Deri's immunity only if they consider that the attorney-general's request was not in good faith. Deri said that he knew of no way of showing this other than by noting similar incidents in which other ministers and MKs were not brought to trial.

Deri said that the *Yedioth Aharonot* reporter Mordechai Gilat, whose investigation kicked off the case for which he is currently being tried, is trying to pressure MKs into a speedy decision to lift his immunity.

Channel 1's *Mabat* news last night quoted Gilat as saying Deri's accusation was not worthy of response.

Knesset panel delays Deri decision



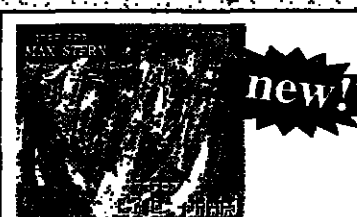
Wouk wins Bar-Ilan award

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Herman Wouk (center) receives the Guardian of Zion Award from Bar-Ilan University's Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies at the Jerusalem Hilton last night. Flanking Wouk are Mrs. Ingeborg Rennert, a philanthropist from the US, and Bar-Ilan President Moshe Kaveh. The prize was awarded for the first time last year to Eli Wiesel and will be given next year to Abraham Rosenthal of 'The New York Times.'

(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Ilan Ossendyev/Israel Sun)

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NEWS

in brief

Ministry protests illegal school strikes

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell yesterday wrote to the heads of all local authorities urging them to take legal action against parents' committees which organize school strikes. He said that keeping children home from school is a violation of the Compulsory Education Law. He pledged the ministry's support to any local authority head who joins the struggle to ensure orderly studies in the school system.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Lawyer sentenced to year in jail

Attorney Shlomo Ravelsky, formerly a senior officer with the police fraud squad, convicted of stealing money from two clients, was sentenced by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday to a year in prison, 18 months' probation, and fined NIS 7,500. He was also ordered to pay one of his victims NIS 10,000 in damages.

In one case, Ravelsky stole NIS 40,000 from a client who had given him the money to pay a fine for him. In the second case, he stole NIS 11,000 from a couple he represented in a civil suit by not telling them they had won a judgment for that sum, then pocketing the money.

Itim

Katsav leaves for Lisbon tourism meeting

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav departed yesterday for Lisbon, where he will participate in a ministerial gathering of the World Tourism Organization. The theme of the meeting will be "Tourism and the Ocean" and it will aim to promote awareness of the importance of preventing the destruction of shorelines and preserving the seas.

While in Lisbon, Katsav plans to visit the Israeli exhibit for Expo 98, which is to be held in the city and to meet with Portuguese leaders.

Itim

Artificial heart recipient receives human heart

A man who was implanted with Israel's second artificial heart during the past year yesterday received a human heart and lungs at Sheba Hospital. Last week, the first man to get a temporary artificial heart of plastic and metal received a human heart.

In the latest case, the organs were removed from the body of Pavel Nagetsky, 21, of Ashkelon, who was killed in a road accident. Doctors called his mother in Moscow and asked if they could use his organs. She asked that he remain connected to a heart-lung machine so she could take a flight from Russia and "say goodbye" to him before they removed the organs. She rushed to Israel, parted from her son, and the heart and lungs were donated.

Judy Siegel

Maxim Levy's picture defaced with swastikas

The Geshet-Meretz list for next week's Histadrut elections submitted a complaint yesterday to police in Petah Tikva about the painting of swastikas on pictures of Maxim Levy, who heads the list, and Sarah Oren, the local Na'amat candidate.

The swastikas were daubed on pictures of the two candidates that were posted along the Petah Tikva-Lod highway near Sirkin junction. A spokesman for Amir Peretz's Am (people) list, which is competing with Levy's, condemned the painting of the swastikas.

Itim

Yad Vashem sponsors forum on Vatican document

A Scholar's Forum on the Vatican document, "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," published by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews on March 16, will take place tonight at Yad Vashem. Chaired by Yehuda Bauer, director of Yad Vashem's International Center for Holocaust Studies, participants are to include Yisrael Gutman, Geoffrey Wigoder and Itzhak Minerbi.

"This is a first attempt at analysis rather than reactions," Bauer said. "There are some declarations, especially in the comments of the pope, that are not completely new at least are new in spirit and very positive, while other parts of the document are purely negative. I don't know that all four of us will agree, I rather think there will be different emphasis." *Elli Wohlgeleitner*

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Spokesman's Office

BOARD OF EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL LICENSE FOR INTERNSHIP

According to the State of Israel Physicians regulations 1988, the examination for license for internship will be held at 08:00 a.m., on July 13, 1998, at the Israel Convention Center, Ganei Hata'arucha, Bvd. Rokach, Tel Aviv

The examination can be taken in the following languages:

Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian and Russian

The examinees will be asked to present their original Identity Card plus a photo of the Identity Card.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Spokesman's Office

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Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

Third such attack in South in last three months

Mekorot facility vandalized again

By DAVID RUDGE

Mekorot chairman Doron Gruper yesterday called on security forces to do their utmost to catch those responsible for repeated acts of sabotage against the water company's facilities, especially in the South.

Gruper's call follows an incident in which saboteurs caused serious damage to a pumping station in the Negev, between Beersheba and Dimona.

They apparently cut through the fence surrounding the facility and then caused as much damage as possible, without attempting to steal anything.

The break-in, which occurred shortly

after midnight on Monday, set off electronic alarms, causing Mekorot workers and police to race to the scene.

Searches were instigated for the perpetrators, but to no avail.

Mekorot officials estimated that repairs to pipes and electrical equipment would cost tens of thousands of shekels.

The pumping station supplies water to Dimona, the Beduin village Aro'er and the Mishor Rotem industrial zone. Mekorot workers managed to use an alternative pipeline to enable the continuation of water supplies and no disruptions were felt by consumers.

The Mekorot officials noted, however, that it was the third serious case of sabo-

tage to a facility in the South during the last three months.

In one of the previous incidents during Pessah, saboteurs destroyed a control valve on a main pipeline supplying water to thousands of residents and farmers in the northern Negev region. Water supplies were only fully restored after 15 hours on that occasion.

Gruper, chairman of Mekorot's board of directors, told reporters yesterday that the acts of vandalism and sabotage to the water company's plants were becoming intolerable.

"The latest act of sabotage leads us again to call on the police and the security forces to help us to find those elements which are

damaging our facilities," said Gruper.

He said the number of such incidents in the south of the country was averaging about 20 a month, despite the fact that Mekorot was doing everything possible to protect facilities.

Gruper added that it was impossible for Mekorot to station guards at every plant, given the fact that there were thousands of kilometers of water pipelines throughout the country.

Gruper, who believes that the same group may have been responsible for the recent acts of sabotage against Mekorot's facilities in the South, is to meet with Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk and senior police officers next week over the matter.



Connected lives

Ali Zaid kisses Yair Kasher, the four-year-old boy who received the heart of Zaid's son after he was killed in a road accident. Sarit Kasher (far left) and Ruba Zaid look on during a visit by organ donors and recipients to the President's Residence yesterday.

(Brian Hender)

Country marks 'No-Tobacco Day'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Smoking is decreasing among Israeli adults, but it is growing among teenagers, the Health Ministry said yesterday, on the eve of World No-Tobacco Day. The day of abstinence will be marked today in Israel because the worldwide observance fell on Shavuot, May 31.

Youngsters who smoke are beginning to light up at the ages of 11 or 12, compared to 14 or 15 a decade ago, the ministry said.

Twenty-eight percent of the adult population smokes, and 6,000 of them will die from tobacco-related causes this year. That is more than the number of fatalities from road accidents, terrorism and AIDS combined, the Israel Cancer Association (ICA) said.

A study carried out by the Institute for Occupational Health and the Brookdale Institute found that concern among smokers that they will gain weight if they kick the habit is highly exaggerated. Weight gain among those who gave up smoking is similar two years later to that gained in two years by non-smokers.

Former smokers gain an average of 1.4 kilos during the first year and only 200 grams a year after that. Weight gain is much lower among people who substituted physical activity and a healthier diet for smoking, the study found. In any case, the health benefits of giving up smoking far surpass any harm by the increased weight.

To mark World No-Tobacco Day, the Knesset will host a number of events.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri will hand out prizes in the "I Quit! Win" competition. A lottery will decide who gets the prizes among those who have quit smoking during a specified period. Forty senior and junior high

school pupils will ask MKs questions and offer suggestions about reducing smoking among young people and fighting marketing efforts of the tobacco companies.

ICA and Health Ministry staffers will distribute stickers and pamphlets among MKs. Finally, Benizri will address the plenum about the authorities' efforts to fight smoking during the past year and outline plans for the coming year.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has issued a strong warning against the risks of smoking by young people and set this year's theme as "Growing Up Without Tobacco." It warned: "the tobacco epidemic will prematurely claim the lives of about 250 million children and young people alive today."

Some 3.5 million people around the world die each year from smoking, and if the smoking rate doesn't decline by the year 2020, this will grow to 10 million dead. WHO experts say that if young people don't get hooked before the age of 20, they are unlikely to initiate use as adults.

Around the world, about one-third of the adult population smokes. Out of two smokers who started smoking at a young age and continued throughout their lives, one will ultimately die from a tobacco-related illness. As a result, nicotine addiction was called "a pediatric disease" by then-chairman of the US Food and Drug Administration. Statistics show that a third to a half of adolescents who merely experiment with cigarettes go on to become regular smokers within a year.

Children and babies exposed to passive smoking have been found to get more colds and coughs and suffer more acute respiratory tract infections; their risk of developing asthma is also significantly greater, according to the WHO.

Less than one third of beaches open to public

By LIAT COLLINS

Out of 190 kilometers of coastline, only some 50 kilometers are open to the public, according to figures presented to the Knesset Science and Technology Committee yesterday.

At the same time that the Knesset was discussing the disappearing beaches, the National Planning and Construction Council decided not to approve the plans for the Haifa marina project.

Dr. Daniel Hartman, of Ben-Gurion University and Ahva College, told MKs in the Science Committee that no resources had been allocated to carrying out a basic study of the coastline, an accepted practice in western countries, despite the fact that the beaches are considered a natural and economic asset. He said that as the result of massive construction along the coast there are very few sandy beaches fit for swimming and recreation activities. He also said that Israel has one of the highest rates of drowning incidents in the world.

Avi Eflia, chairman of the national lifeguards association, said: "Following the reduction in the amount of beach space available to bathers, there is increased pressure on the small areas open. The wave breakers and construction create dangerous conditions which increase the number of drowning incidents."

"We, the lifeguards, are finding it harder and harder to cope with the problem," he said. "Similarly, the great pressure of crowds causes people to go to the beach during hours in which there is no lifeguard, such as evenings and early mornings, and the danger to lives has only increased."

The committee, chaired by Dalia Itzik (Labor), issued a call for the planning authorities responsible for approving marinas and tourist facilities close to the beaches not to be hasty in approving new projects which could effect the current situation and recommended preparing legislation which would grant the country's beaches protected status.

Planning council puts Haifa development on hold

The National Building and Planning Commission yesterday decided against giving final approval to the proposed hotels-holiday homes and marina project along Haifa's coastline between Bat Galim and Shikmona.

The commission determined that the scheme should be reconsidered, because it constituted a change to the master development plan for the coastline and was added to it after the plan itself was

drawn up. The Interior Ministry will now have to submit a new proposal based on the commission's decision.

Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel spokesman Orit Nevo said the decision marked a "great day" for all conservationist groups opposed to the destruction of the country's beaches and coastline by "real estate development."

David Rudge

IMA head complains to Matza about hospital violence

By DAVID RUDGE
and JUDY SIEGEL

Israel Medical Association (IMA) Chairman Yoram Blachar yesterday asked Health Minister Yehoshua Matza for an urgent meeting to discuss violence against medical staffers.

There were two more incidents yesterday — one at Sieff Hospital in Safed and the other at Poriya Hospital near Tiberias.

Doctors at Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital staged a two-hour strike yesterday in protest over a recent incident in which the head of the pediatrics department, Dr. Anthony Luder, received death threats.

This followed the death of a year-old girl from an Upper Galilee moshav who had been treated in the hospital, as well as at Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem.

Dr. Calin Shapira, deputy director of the Safed government hospital, said a relative of the dead girl had called and demanded that Luder be dismissed "or he will be considered dead."

"We take a very grave view of this matter," said Shapira. "The task of our staff is first and foremost to heal the sick, to try and save lives and give patients the best treatment we can — and not to be targets for unjustified violence."

He noted that there had been another incident at the hospital's "front line" emergency ward in Kiryat Shmona a few weeks ago in which a doctor was attacked by a patient who felt he had not been treated properly.

Shapira said a complaint had been lodged with police over the latest incident and the matter was being taken up with the family in an effort to calm the situation.

In a separate incident, police arrested a 24-year-old Tiberias woman for allegedly pushing a doctor and nurses at the Poriya Hospital.

Tiberias police station commander Zion Ben-Ezra said the woman had gone to the hospital on Monday afternoon and demanded to take home her newborn baby being treated in the premature babies ward.

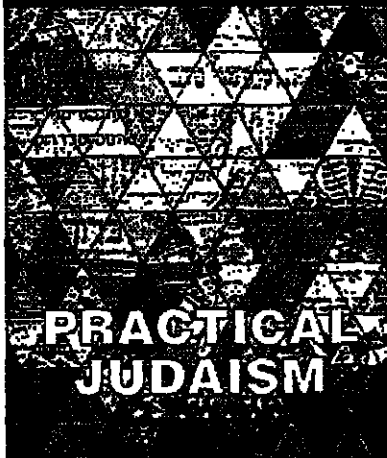
Ben-Ezra said the hospital staff insisted that the infant was not in a condition to be allowed home and needed to remain in the hospital for medical reasons. He said the mother was arrested and later released on bail.

In a letter to Matza, Blachar said the Patients' Rights Law, which went into effect last year, should be amended to stress the responsibility of the patient to assist in his treatment by behaving properly.

The amendment should prohibit patients from physically or verbally abusing those who treat them, Blachar said.

The IMA is also calling for the posting of an armed policeman around the clock in all emergency rooms, where most of the violence has occurred.

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MK Ruby Rivlin (pointing) gives some of the young people who visited the Knesset yesterday, as part of the Children's Month celebrations, a guided tour. The youngsters also attended the plenum and various committee sessions. (Isaac Harari)

Knesset opens doors to nation's youth

By LIAT COLLINS

Hundreds of youths "took over" the Knesset yesterday as part of the events of Children's Month. Showing a greater presence than the MKs in some places, the adolescents participated in committee meetings on violence in schools, absorption of immigrant youth, and the rights of children of foreign workers.

Greatest interest was generated by the discussion in the Knesset Committee for Public Complaints, which addressed the exploitation of children by modelling agencies. Committee chairman Rafi Elul (Labor) complained of charlatan agencies which "hunt children in

schools and youth groups" and tempt them into agreeing to a photo session with false promises of easy money.

He presented his bill under which being photographed for a portfolio would require a contract signed by the minor's parents.

Fifteen-year-old model Adi Neuman said she has friends who have been cheated by different companies which promised them work if they are photographed for a "book." She noted she has the right to turn down an assignment she does not want without it affecting her chances to get future work through the modeling agency.

The Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee heard that there has been an increase in the numbers of immigrant youths involved in violence in schools. Some 21 percent of juvenile offenders are new immigrants, according to the head of the Internal Security Ministry's juvenile investigation division. Some 43% of new immigrant children are victims of bullying.

MK Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said teachers are not suf-

ficiently trained to bridge the differences with immigrant youths.

The Education and Culture Committee also discussed violence in schools and heard about the program prepared by the community policing unit which is operating in 15 schools.

The Knesset Committee for Foreign Workers heard that more than half the children of foreign workers do not attend school for fear it will lead to the deportation of their parents.

Matza warns health system may 'collapse'

By JUDY SIEGEL

The health system is at the edge of financial collapse, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza warned Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman in a letter yesterday.

This is due to the "failure to implement the working plan that the two ministries agreed upon months ago," Matza said.

Matza met Monday with directors of the public hospitals who had serious complaints and said their institutions were on the edge of bankruptcy. They said they are already having difficulty purchasing drugs and equipment, and that it won't be long before treatments and operations are

postponed because of the lack of funds.

Matza wrote that the Knesset Finance Committee has not yet approved the plan to charge user's fees to the public for visiting doctors, emergency rooms and outpatient clinics plus an additional monthly fee to be collected by their health fund.

These charges are to be made in addition to the existing 4.8% health taxes on monthly income. The assessments were to bring in NIS 150 million during the last six months of this year.

Sources in the Health Ministry, however, concede that these collections, which are in fact additional taxes, would be very unpop-

ular among those voting in the upcoming Histadrut elections, and that the Health Ministry itself has postponed demands for their implementation until after the vote.

In his letter, Matza said that the Treasury "continues to refuse to transfer to the health funds the NIS 300 million 'safety net' it committed itself to; this money is meant, among other things, to subsidize insurers for financial losses resulting from fee exemptions for low-income and chronically ill members."

A spokesman for the Treasury declined to comment on Matza's charges.

Salmonella bug increasingly resistant to antibiotics — expert

By JUDY SIEGEL

More than 2,500 Israelis are infected annually by a gastrointestinal bacterium that is resistant to many types of antibiotics. This situation, a Hebrew University researcher said yesterday, is liable to pose a "serious threat to the public health."

Dr. Etti Metzger, of the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, urged a significant reduction in the use of antibiotics to prevent and fight disease in poultry, because resistance to antibiotics in humans can result from eating animals that were treated with veterinary antibiotics.

Each year, some 8,000 people here are diagnosed

with salmonella infection. Dr. Metzger, who dedicated her thesis to the subject, discovered that a third of all salmonella cases here are due to the DT104 strain, which is increasingly resistant to commonly used antibiotics.

People can be infected with salmonella by eating undercooked poultry or by contact between uncooked, infected poultry and cooked food.

Metzger studied salmonella bacteria in humans and chickens and found their DNA sequences are similar. She also was the first to identify a unique gene mutation found in salmonella bacteria in humans and poultry that is responsible for antibiotic resistance.

Microbiologist in Maccabiah trial:

Yarkon River water not harmful

Casual drinking of the water of the Yarkon River poses no health hazard, senior Sheba Hospital microbiologist Dr. Natan Keller testified yesterday at the trial of the five men accused of responsibility for the Maccabiah bridge disaster.

Four Australian athletes died and dozens were injured when the bridge buckled during the opening ceremony of the Maccabiah Games last July 14.

Keller added that the illness suffered by those who fell into the river when the bridge collapsed was caused by a fungal infection. The fungus, he said, is present mainly in the mud on the river bottom, which was stirred up by the collapse of the bridge and the large numbers of bodies thrashing about in the water.

Keller was testifying as a prosecution witness, apparently to rebut claims that the fungal pollution in the river was the main cause of the deaths of the four athletes. His testimony allowed the prosecution to argue that the pollution was only a secondary cause, and the bridge collapse was the primary cause.

Meanwhile, the attorney for Yoram Eyal, who was chairman of the Maccabiah organizing committee at the time of the games, and is one of those charged with negligence, questioned why police were not held accountable for the collapse.

"The approvals [for the bridge] were signed by all the appropriate authorities, including the engineer, the fire service, and the police, yet police accountability was never properly investigated," said attorney Dov Weisglass.

Some 100 Australian athletes were on the foot bridge when it collapsed and a policeman has testified that he was told to limit the number of people crossing to 150.

A second lawyer, Avraham Landstein, who represents engineer Micha Bar-Ilan, who designed the bridge, asked chief police investigator Amiram Omer why he did not look into reports that a police vehicle was seen on the bridge the day before it collapsed.

"I did not think it appropriate to investigate police responsibility for the bridge collapse," Omer answered.

Gil Shohat's 'Song of Songs' premieres

By HELEN KAYE

"It is more than just music when a German choir sings music by an Israeli composer," said Ra'anana.

Symphonette general manager Orit Fogel yesterday.

She referred to Song of Songs, the 50-minute cantata by 24-year-old Gil Shohat commissioned in honor of the Jubilee by the Israel Festival.

The work, which has its world premiere tomorrow at Henry Crown Hall, will be performed by the Ra'anana Symphonette (conducted by Yuval Zelinuk), together with singers Sharon Rostorf and Claudio de Segni and Germany's Rheinische Kantorei.

Kantorei music director Hermann Max said the choir welcomes the challenge of singing the Hebrew text, saying that his singers "love the music, which has a wonderful feel for melody. I hear them singing snatches even when they're not in rehearsal."

Shohat compared his creation of the nine-part work to the nine

months of pregnancy, saying that "hearing the choir, soloists and orchestra all together for the first time was truly like a birth. It was an amazing, moving and exciting moment."

He was inspired, said Shohat, by the verbal beauty of the biblical text and added, "I think that the theme of unity is central to the poem, which is so right for Jerusalem and for this particular time. Also, the poem is about love, which is universal."

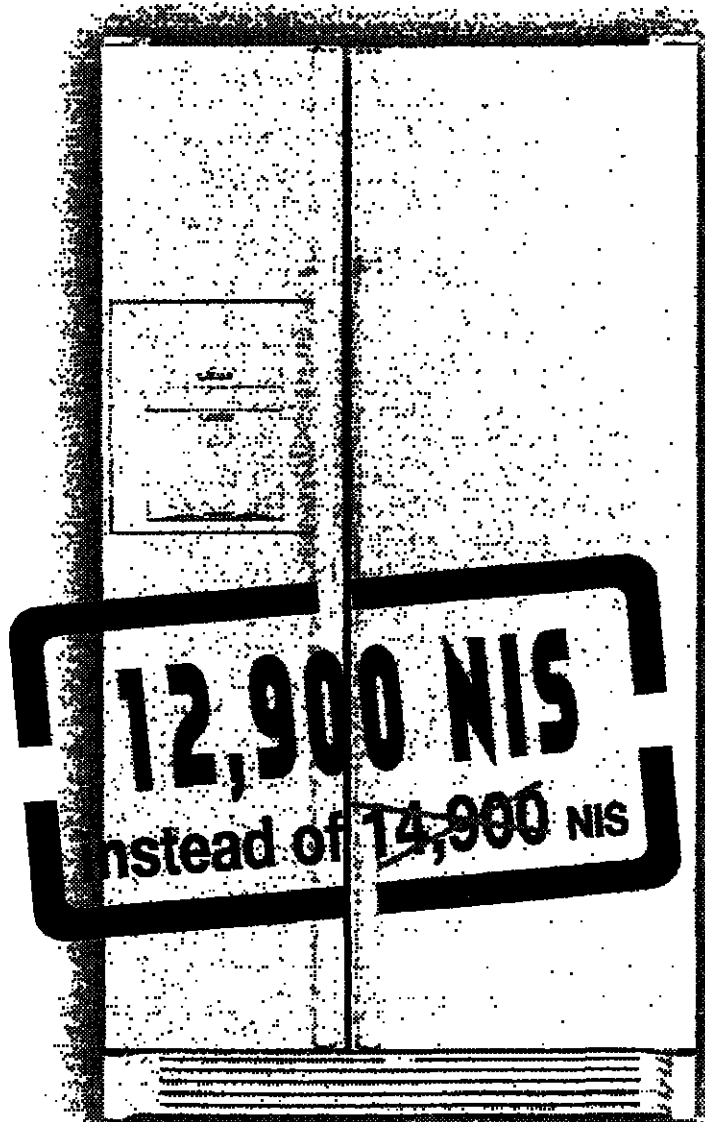
Song of Songs, which involves collaboration between Israeli and non-Israeli performers, "represents the realization of a dream," said Israel Festival board chair-

man Dani Halperin.

This is Shohat's longest work to date and is dedicated to his parents, the first work he has dedicated to them. He didn't tell them until yesterday, when he got the finished score from his music publishers, the Italian firm of Ricordi.

Gil Shohat

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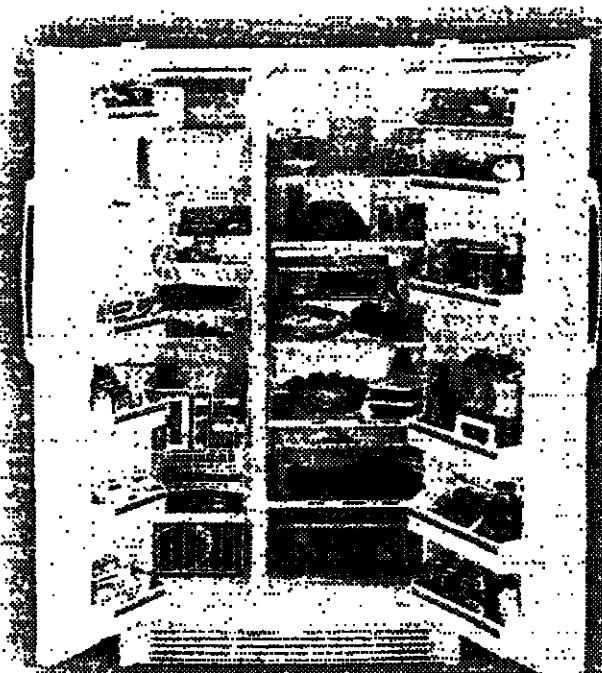


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They'll be back

Anyone who reads indiscriminately has no trouble spotting trendy trends in the non-fiction world. One such fashionable theme in recent years has been the "End of..." series.

After the fall of Communism at the start of this decade we had the "end of history" theory from Japan, which probably started it all. No sooner was the computer and Internet revolution off the ground than Clifford Stoll in 1995 shot it down with Silicon Snake Oil, declaring the information superhighway to be a passing fraud and cyber-delusion.

The End of Science by John Horgan has just winged its way to my mailbox. A quick scan reveals that it will inform me that we have reached the limits of knowledge and the twilight of the scientific age.

We are now waiting for "the end of economics." Don't berate me if the definitive tome is already out – turgid economic theory comes far down on my readability list. (Maybe Daniel Yergin's *The Commanding Heights* would qualify – he says government everywhere is losing the battle against the market.)

Hot on hubris
However, even a shallow journalist can notice when his eye is jabbed by straws in the wind. Most of them have been blown westward from the collapsing houses of straw in Asia. Last week they threatened to be overtaken by wooden beams from the tottering log-cabin economy of Russia. But the danger appears to have passed for the moment.

I say "for the moment," but another message has been getting louder in the business media. Asian and Russian crises have not ended the record-breaking bullrun in the West, and this is a true sign that old-fashioned economics (the boom-bust, growth-recession cycles) are dead. It's an "end of old economics" theory – but it doesn't yet have the bestseller pizzazz of Stoll or Horgan.

Ah, vanity, all is vanity! Would it not be curious to come back in a mere 100 years time to survey this fin de siècle-20 hubris with a sad smile and shaking head?

A hundred years ago most physicists were convinced that anything of major interest to mankind had been discovered. It was the previous end of science, Mr. Horgan.

Victoria redux

Their Victorian world was mechanistic rather than digital, so they thought further inevitable discoveries would be mere mechanical fine-tuning. The motions of the planets were like clockwork, Isaac Newton had all but finished the job. Electricity was the last known force in the universe and the

atom was a hard, round ball. The Pasteur Institute would soon identify all the germs causing all diseases and make all the vaccines needed to eliminate them. God's creation would eventually be found to run like a huge and

perfect Swiss clock, powered by perfect British engines, and funded by American steel and railway stocks.

Hidden from their smugness was all yet to come in just another 60 years – relativity, radiation, quarks, DNA, galaxies, black holes, plastics, jets and rockets, nuclear energy, lasers, digital everything. At no time do geniuses become more short-sighted than when they take the long view.

Sadly, all science fiction (a driving force behind scientific progress) is a fantasy on the present, and at its most feeble when it thinks it really is the future. Consider those old *Twilight Zone* movies we once thought were great: cardboard spaceships stand in back-garden lots spewing kettle-steam, dorky actors cavort in silver Purim suits. The super-modern *Babylon 5* will look daft in 2050; look how daft the first *Star Treks* look already. And remember Jules Verne firing men in evening-dress to the moon in an artillery shell.

Before Marco Polo, did anyone Western ever imagine a Chinese emperor? Before space travel, did any painting of the Earth seen from space ever look like the real thing? If a real alien is out there, has anyone drawn a real likeness?

Gupper index
If science is a poor prophet, and philosophy stayed stuck in the realm of footnotes to Plato, beware even more of economics.

Free market in essence is "take the money and run." There is no long view, ask any robber baron. The free market, currency deregulation and privatization revolution began, like the Industrial Revolution, in Britain. But Margaret Thatcher, who has the mentality of a small-town grocer, didn't know she was starting a revolution. In fact it was her spiritual leader, Keith Joseph, who imagined he was crafting the destruction of socialism in Britain. This was spread abroad, under the name Thatcherism, by Ronald Reagan, who at last discovered an economic theory he could fit on a 3x5 index card.

It was actually Labor leader Tony Blair who engineered the deconstruction of socialism, and look where it got him. The end of socialism, the end of science, the end of history, the end of everything? We have seen the end of nothing except, and only maybe, the *Seinfeld* show.

Mark my words, and keep an eye on the French – all the "ends" remain bound by the physicists' immutable Schwarzschilder Certainty Principle: They'll be back.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

The footballization of society

French intellectuals ponder the global frenzy elicited by the World Cup

By SARA HENLEY

PARIS – For some people it may just be balls in the back of the net, but France's thinkers are tackling the deeper meanings of the World Cup.

Symposiums, books and newspaper articles are busy tackling issues like the "footballization of society," "superstitionism" or the stadium as "a dense and infernal socio-psychic space."

The discussion is producing some dazzling sentences. "The round ball draws its origins from the solar myth, the universal myth par excellence. The trajectory of the sun-ball? It could be none other than the course of destiny, our destiny," writes Gerard Ernault, editorial director of *France-Football* magazine, in a history of the game.

Ernault's article was published in a dense 100-page supplement to *Le Monde Diplomatique*, a weekly bout of highbrow geopolitical musing from the respected *Le Monde* daily.

And in papers submitted for a four-day session analyzing football and culture worldwide, experts argue that televised football can be seen as a spectacle combining three essential components: "space, time and movement."

From Vienna, one analyst divulges that football culture is "to be understood as a double formation (working-class suburbs/the city, male roughness/refined coffee-house culture; (healthy) outdoor sport (unhealthy) café, foul language/the feuilleton, etc.)."

Of course it would be dim to bring the final grand sporting event of the millennium to the home of great thinkers like Descartes and Sartre and not expect a dose of deep thought.

As sociologist Patrick Mignon writes, referring to French footballer-turned-actor Eric Cantona: "One can always be hard in foot-



The 80,000-seat Stade de France was built in time for World Cup 1998: "We believe its construction... constitutes a danger for the democracy we want," writes architect and thinker Marc Perelman. (AP)

ball, one can be hard and a poet like Cantona."

But while the way the French discuss things may sound elaborate to some foreign ears, the issues raised in these analytical reams are not all abstract.

A thoughtful spectator who can understand them may even leave this World Cup a little wiser.

CHARTING the history of football – born in its current form sometime around 1860 of aristocratic English parentage before it became a working-class sport – lets experts knock around ideas on national identity, class struggle or the evolution of the male adolescent.

There are pages devoted to the football of domestic and international politics, and times when matches have served as a barometer

of broader conflicts.

Italian politicians assaulting each other in the national assembly over a disputed match outcome in April is one example.

Then again in the former Yugoslavia, note authors in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, conflicts between Croats and Serbs in the early 1990s impinged on the game. In the early 1980s, it was a similar story before the break-up of Czechoslovakia.

To analyze the role of the game through the ages it seems to help if you like football.

Mignon's 300-page volume "The Passion of Football" starts off by casting aside negative views on the sport.

But architect and thinker Marc Perelman does not identify his favorite team in a 10-franc (\$1.70)

pamphlet on the construction of the 80,000-seat stadium at Saint Denis which will host the final. He has a much weightier topic in hand.

"We believe that the construction of the Stade de France... constitutes a danger for democracy, the democracy we want, the most direct democracy possible between individuals," he writes in "The Barbaric Stadium."

Building partly on an analysis of the history of stadiums – particularly those built in the era of fascist dictators like Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini – he highlights the role of football as a limb of dictatorship.

Few go as far as Perelman, who calls hooligans the "hic et nunc" (here and now) of the game, but others do ponder on the sport's use and misuse by governments.

According to ethnologist Christian Bromberger, football's impact goes well beyond the political "opium of the masses," its influence extending into a country's social and economic fabric.

One aspect that particularly worries the French is the mounting commercialism surrounding the game, which taps their anxieties about market forces crushing individual identity.

Looking at English clubs now listed on the stock exchange, a European Commission decision to let players, like other workers, move freely across borders and the might of sponsorship and pay-television access, some French analysts get worried.

"One can ask oneself if teams are going to stay local teams or become brand teams," Bromberger told the daily *Libération* in an interview.

Away from the roar of commerce, there is the emotional intensity of a match.

Bromberger says football is "a deep game, because it supplies all the emotions in a concentrated way: joy, anguish, revolt, injustice."

It might not be much to sing on the terraces, but you get the idea.

Or as Mignon writes: "The pleasure in football is always a little more than simply sensual. The emotions... are the expression of the structurally uncertain character of all social life, and play a part in an attempt to master this uncertainty."

Fans may like to shunt Mignon forward to explain to complaining females why football is much more than a game.

Try this: "The fervor of emotional links which unite a club and a town is represented by what one calls topophilia," Mignon writes. "The stadium, the emotions one has felt there, the seat one had, are written down in memory." Topophilia. Now who did he play for? (Reuters)

Turkmen try to raise cash selling exotic horses

By MIKE COLLETT-WHITE

Turkmenistan, land of the legendary Akhal Teke racehorse, has put the rare breed under the hammer for the first time as economic hardship in the Central Asian state begins to bite.

Dozens of the fabled thoroughbreds once prized by Alexander the Great, with their trademark shimmering coats and long, delicate necks and legs, were paraded before a small group of bidders at the first ever sale last month.

In sweltering heat at a state-owned stable just outside Ashgabat, the capital of the former Soviet republic, a buyer from neighboring Iran clinched the inaugural deal, paying \$30,000 for Goch, an eight-year-old dun stallion.

In an unlikely combination, the only other potential buyers were from the US, in the market for cheaper horses.

But what was to have been a full-blown auction to raise cash

and promote the exotic breed abroad turned out to be more of a low-key street bazaar with local officials struggling to hide their disappointment.

"We can't have a proper auction as there have been so few bids," said Gedy Kyarizov, head of the state company Turkmen Horses. "But I'm not too disappointed as this is the first official sale ever." "There are pitifully few buyers," said Louise Firouz, a historian of the breed and a broker to the Iranian buyer.

The Turkmen have a saying: "When you wake up, greet your father and then greet your horse." Or alternatively: "If the carpet is the Turkmen's soul, the horse is his wings."

The Akhal Teke has always enjoyed a special place in Turkmen folklore. Only President Saparmurat Niyazov, the focus of a bizarre personality cult in the impoverished Central Asian state, now figures higher in the nation's

consciousness.

Prized mainly for its stamina, the horse is able to cover up to 160 km of Turkmenistan's arid desert a day.

Fact and fable blur into one as people recount the proud past of one of the world's purest breeds.

Alexander the Great was said to have offered half his fortune for just one of the animals but was turned down by the Turkmen, who said they never sold their friends.

The thoroughbred's profile came to form the central image of the national emblem after Niyazov apparently cried "Karader!" when asked what would best represent his country.

Karader, now 21 and past his heyday, is still a fine, black stallion and the most revered of the Akhal Teke.

He won the Soviet Union's top equestrian honor three times and boasts the most direct link to thoroughbred ancestry.

"He is one of our most phenom-

enal stallions," Kyarizov, pronounced as Karader was led out of the stables.

Rumor has it a Saudi sheikh offered Turkmenistan \$6 million for Karader.

"They could offer us \$6 billion or \$6 trillion but this horse will never be sold. It is the most beautiful horse in the world," Kyarizov said. Even tuning out the local euphoria, experts say the Akhal Teke horse can be of real value to the Western racing world, particularly for its quality of endurance.

Most thoroughbred bloodlines can be traced to the Turkmen breed, whose own history goes back at least 6,000 years.

Stamina is a key ingredient in a winning horse, experts say, but traces of the Akhal Teke among the world's racing horses are fast disappearing.

"These horses have enormous potential value," Firouz, who is also a horse breeder, said. "The thoroughbred has lost its genetic purity

and has become too specialized."

Only 1,164 pure Akhal Teke are known to exist, 700 of them in Turkmenistan and 230 in Russia. Those still in the Central Asian republic are divided among private and state stables.

But in a country where the average monthly wage is \$42, many owners do not want to be saddled with the animals, especially now that the government no longer subsidizes their upkeep.

Things were even harder in Soviet times, when numbers dwindled alarmingly after Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev put pressure on the republic to up its production of meat in 1956.

Maria Cherkizova, a local authority on the breed, remembers the "purge" of the Akhal Teke well. She lost her job for nearly two years for trying to protect the horses.

"There were so few of them left that every head lost to the abattoir was a serious blow," she said. (Reuters)

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China considers resuming nuclear weapons tests

Beijing blames Delhi for igniting Asia arms race as India ups defense budget 14%

News agencies

BEIJING - China said yesterday it does not rule out resuming nuclear-weapons testing if the arms race between Pakistan and India intensifies, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported, citing a senior Foreign Ministry official.

The official said while China is committed to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which it signed in 1996, the treaty permits signatories to resume testing if their national security is threatened. Furthermore, he is concerned by India's recent suggestion that it regards China as a threat to its own security.

China also blamed India for the nuclear arms race in South Asia, while muting criticism of its ally Pakistan.

India is "solely responsible" because it tested nuclear bombs first, and Pakistan's tests were a reaction to the nuclear threat from India, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said at a briefing.

India's five detonations in mid-May and a series of Pakistani explosions last week have stirred fears of a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

Beijing originally condemned India for its tests but throughout the crisis has struck a more conciliatory line with Pakistan. Chinese statements have noted Pakistan's security concerns, while expressing "regret" over its nuclear response to India.

Beijing is particularly upset that the Indian government tried to justify its tests by casting nuclear-

power China as its main threat. Relations between the two countries had been improving in recent years despite a dispute over their border.

Although Zhu blamed India for starting the arms race, he also urged both countries to heed growing worldwide support against nuclear testing and proliferation.

"We believe neither India's nuclear tests nor Pakistan's conform to the historical trend," Zhu said.

China calls on both countries to show "maximum restraint" and "immediately abandon nuclear weapons development," Zhu said. Beijing also is urging them to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, he said.

Zhu also repeated the government's denial of allegations that it has helped Pakistan develop nuclear weapons.

China has always been against the spread of nuclear weapons and has not helped any country acquire them, he said.

Zhu's comments came one day after New Delhi fuelled fears of a regional arms race by announcing in its 1998/99 budget that it was raising defense spending by more than 14 percent to \$988 million.

When asked if China would give military assistance to Pakistan in the face of a nuclear India, Zhu said Beijing was opposed to arms proliferation.

"As a responsible big country, China has always maintained a cautious attitude toward exports of

missiles," Zhu said.

China has had a close military relationship with Pakistan and is suspected of handing Islamabad information and technology that could help its missile and nuclear programs.

China and Pakistan have denied that.

Meanwhile, India's financial markets fell yesterday as investors responded to the government's new budget. Although Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha announced spending increases and a slew of tax incentives for infrastructure and housing in his budget for fiscal 1998/99 (April-March), analysts said it would do little to revive exports and investment.

The Bombay stock exchange's index of 30 leading shares was down 1.5% by midday. Shares in New Delhi were also down.

Brokers said their hopes for a cut, or at least a rationalization, of long-term capital gains tax and a green light for companies to buy back shares had been dashed.

However, Sinha told Reuters Television in a morning-after interview that he is confident that his budget will get the economy back on a high-growth path.

"I have not only committed more government funds for development of infrastructure and other core areas... but I have also facilitated the investment in these areas by the private sector, both Indian and foreign," he said.

On Monday, Sinha said his proposals were expected to spur the economy to grow by 6.5%-7% in 1998/99, up from 5% last year.

But economists and newspaper columnists were not upbeat.

"I do not believe that the economy can be kick-started, there is no short cut," said economist Suresh Tendulkar. "It is basically a pedestrian budget, nothing much has been done."

Newspapers described Sinha's budget as protectionist, with a strong dose of economic nationalism - or *swadeshi* - and said its increase in petrol prices could fuel inflation.

"Sinha weaponizes *swadeshi* program," said a banner headline in the *Economic Times* newspaper.

The paper said Sinha had pinned his faith in the ideology of the Hindu-nationalist party which leads the 10-week-old coalition government, looking to overseas Indians rather than foreign investors to help the country overcome the challenge of sanctions imposed by some countries after India's controversial nuclear tests.

But Sinha told Reuters Television that there is no need to take "dramatic steps" to counter the sanctions.

Asked about the increase in defense spending, he said there was nothing unusual about the government's plans.

"I would not say there is anything in defense expenditure which is startling," he said. "As you know, considering our neighbors, our defense expenditure is very modest."

Sinha said in his two-hour budget speech that he aims to cut the country's fiscal deficit to 5.6% of gross domestic product this year from 6.1% in 1997/98.



An anti-India activist points a gun at a picture of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee this week in Lahore. (AP)

Egypt shuts down two English-language papers

By MIRAL FAHMY

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Egyptian government has stopped two English-language newspapers from publishing just two weeks after Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri revoked a controversial printing ban, the publisher of one of the newspapers said yesterday.

Ganzouri on May 21 reversed a ban that was issued in March by the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), thus allowing the publication of "books and periodicals and magazines of a specific, technical and scientific nature."

But Hisham Qassem, publisher of the fortnightly *Cairo Times*, said the ban still applied to his publication and the weekly *Middle East Times*. Both newspapers have run into trouble with censors over articles deemed politically sensitive.

"We've been kicked out again," said Qassem. "They've made it clear that they want to shut us down. The government is fighting any new publications. They're driving Egypt to illiteracy."

Qassem said GAFI President Ibrahim Fawzy had told the Sahara Printing House not to publish the two newspapers. He said the government's Publications and Foreign Press Unit, effectively the censorship office, deemed the

papers political publications, a category not included in Ganzouri's decree.

"It's unbelievable. It's tuggery and bullying. Isn't a political publication a specialist publication? We're not even totally political," Qassem said.

An official at the Publications and Foreign Press Unit shrugged off Qassem's claims.

"All we do is look at material. There is so much press freedom in Egypt, the press can write what it wants," he said.

Nadim Elias of the Sahara Printing Press said GAFI had told him Ganzouri's decree did not cover newspapers.

"I told them the *Cairo Times* was more of a magazine than a newspaper, but they said it was a tabloid."

Journalists and publishers said the March ban, which stopped most of the foreign language and foreign licensed publications in the free zone, smacked of censorship and was part of a government crackdown on the press. Officials said at the time it was a commercial decision.

"As usual, the freedom of the press is under control," said Galal Malt of the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontiers yesterday when asked to comment on the latest action against the *Cairo Times* and the *Middle East Times*.

'Zionist pillar' Murdoch visit irks Iranian MPs

TEHRAN (Reuters) - A group of Iranian deputies has summoned Iran's foreign minister to be questioned in parliament over a visit by media mogul Rupert Murdoch, whom they blasted as a "pillar of Zionism," newspapers said yesterday.

The daily *Jomhuri Eslami* said the five conservative deputies also said Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi should explain recent

visits by two American Middle East analysts.

The move was the latest in a series of public spats between conservatives and supporters of moderate President Mohammed Khatami, who has called for increased cultural and scientific exchanges to promote a dialogue with the American people.

"We have recently witnessed the presence in Iran of American citi-

zens, particularly political and security elements," the deputies said in their query.

They objected to the visit by Australian-born Murdoch, blasting him as "one of the main pillars of Zionism and a leader of cultural invasion."

Foreign Ministry officials were quoted earlier by the daily *Kayhan* as saying Murdoch had visited Iran last month on a tourist visa.

They gave no further details.

Iran has banned satellite dishes for public use, blaming Western television channels for a "cultural invasion" against the Islamic republic.

The newspapers said the deputies were also referring to recent visits by Anthony Cordesman and Judith Kipper. Cordesman works as a Middle East military analyst at the Washington-based Center for

Strategic and International Studies. Kipper is also a US Middle East analyst.

Since Khatami's election last year, US-Iran ties have warmed slightly. An Iranian official last week welcomed the steady stream of American scholars and journalists who have visited Iran recently, saying they had contributed to transforming Iran's image positively in the US.

Analysts: Weak yen may force Japan firms to return home

By MIKI SHIMOGUCHI

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese companies that have rushed to set up overseas factories may need to rethink that strategy if the dollar climbs much further against the yen, company officials and analysts said yesterday.

"The weak yen is still a windfall for the nation's industry as a whole... but if the dollar climbs much beyond 140 yen, some electronics manufacturers could shrink their overseas output," said Yoshio Kozawa, analyst at Nikko Research Center in Tokyo.

The dollar briefly rose yesterday to 139.75 yen, its highest intraday level in almost seven years, before retreating to around 139.00 yen in

late Asian trade.

The yen's renewed weakness is still a boon for Japanese exporters, helping them to weather stagnant sales at home and in Asia. A weak yen increases their dollar-based export incomes, while making products more price competitive overseas.

Leading watchmaker Citizen Watch Co Ltd said the weaker yen had boosted its profits.

Citizen said about one-third to one-half of its group profit rise in 1997/98 came from the weaker yen, adding it would post higher-than-forecast profits this business year if the dollar stayed at current levels.

Citizen chairman Michio Nakajima said an excessive dollar

rally could prompt the company to pull back from some of its overseas operations.

"I don't think the current dollar level of around 140 yen will reverse the favorable effects [of producing overseas], but a further dollar rally to around 150 yen could lead to a pullout from some overseas operations," Nakajima said.

After the dollar hit a record low of just below 80 yen in April 1995, many Japanese exporters facing a pressing need to protect their export incomes shifted output to lower-cost economies at the expense of their domestic bases - a phenomenon known as the "hollowing out" of Japanese industry.

Nakajima said that given the recent strength in the dollar, exporters appeared to have stopped shifting output overseas. But he said it was risky to base a business strategy on exchange rates alone.

"The yen could rise again... but things could change if the dollar's current strength lasts for two or three years," he said.

Another leading exporter, Sony Corp., said the yen's renewed weakness was not prompting it to review its global production strategy.

"We have been trying to make our business free from currency swings, and the ratio of our overseas and domestic outputs is now 50-50," a Sony spokesman said.

"We are not planning to change our production strategy, because of short-term currency movements. But if the dollar rises over 150 yen and heads towards 160 yen or higher, we may have to rethink that strategy."

The spokesman said that while the yen's weakness favored Sony, it also had negative effects.

"The yen's fall means a fall in credibility in Japan," he said. "We are concerned about the economy and also concerned that any further boost in our exports could rekindle trade friction with the United States."

He estimated that for every yen the dollar rose, Sony's annual sales went up by about five billion yen (\$35.9 million).

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Gore's latest threat: The Year 2000 computer glitch

By STEPHEN BARR
and RAVY CHANDRASEKHARAN

WASHINGTON - When it's time to talk technology, US Vice President Al Gore never seems to be at a loss for words. Wiring schools to the Internet. Celebrating the virtues of electronic mail. Using computers to streamline government.

But when it comes to the Year 2000 computer glitch, arguably the nation's most pressing technological problem, Gore has been strikingly silent. There have been no public speeches, no "town hall" meetings, no photo ops with programmers.

For Gore, that may be because the Year 2000 glitch isn't just a technological worry, it's also a political one that could be potentially damaging to him, political analysts say.

Industry experts contend that the federal government has been slow to address the issue, raising worries that crucial computer systems - from those that control airplane traffic to ones that process payments to schools, farmers and veterans - could grind to a halt on January 1, 2000.

That's right when Gore might

find himself campaigning across Iowa and New Hampshire, seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

"It's very much a factor in his positioning for the 2000 race," suggested Andrew L. Shapiro, a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. "Al doesn't want it to be Al's mess."

Gore spokesman Lawrence Haas said the vice president receives regular briefings on the government's progress in fixing Year 2000 computer problems, has personally directed the cabinet to make the fixes a high priority and has spoken about the potential crisis to the President's Management Council, a group of senior political appointees.

"He is not avoiding the issue," Haas said.

But asked to point out speeches in which Gore has talked about the so-called millennium bug, Haas could not identify one.

THE YEAR 2000 problem stems from the fact that many computer systems use a two-digit dating system that assumes 1 and 9 are the first two digits of the year. Without specialized reprogram-

ming, the systems will recognize "00" not as 2000 but 1900, a glitch that could cause computers to either stop working or start generating erroneous data.

Virtually every cabinet department and federal agency promises it will have fixed and tested its computer systems and links before the 2000 deadline, but any significant airline delay, power outage or telecommunications breakdown could give Gore's political opponents an opening to question his credibility or mock his efforts to "reinvent" government.

Republicans, in particular, appear ready to try to pin any problem on him.

In a recent memo to "members of Congress and conservative leaders" on the Year 2000 problem, would-be GOP presidential contender Steve Forbes recently asked, "What has the administration's technology point man, Vice President Al Gore, doing for the past five years?"



Never at a loss for words on issues of technology, Gore has been strikingly silent about the millennium bug. (Isaac Harari)

Rep. Stephen Horn, R-Calif., a House Government Reform subcommittee chairman who has

held hearings on the Year 2000 problem since April 1996, said, "All of us have wondered where he is, since he is supposed to be the expert on all the good things in the 21st century - telecommunications, computers, technology."

Administration officials noted that President Bill Clinton created a special White House council in February to lead the government's effort to prevent widespread computer problems in 2000 and said Gore was personally involved in recruiting John A. Koskinen, who has specialized in crisis management, to lead the council. The vice president, Koskinen said, has "provided the support and leadership that we need at this stage. It doesn't do us a lot of good just to have people talking. My sense is to try to figure out the points of leverage, what are the issues that need to be raised and at what time."

Greg Simons, Gore's former chief domestic-policy adviser and now a technology policy consul-

tant in Washington, said public speeches by the vice president could "give out the impression that he's promising to fix everyone's [Year 2000] problem."

"It's more effective for him to work behind the scenes," Simon said.

REP. CONSTANCE A. Morella, (R-Maryland), who called on the White House last year to designate a Year 2000 czar, said she hopes Koskinen can spur the government to work faster on computer fixes.

Like some other lawmakers, she said the White House has not used its bully pulpit enough to educate the public about possible economic consequences or inconveniences.

"Ignoring this problem is a bigger risk than addressing it," Morella said.

Sen. Robert F. Bennett, (R-Utah), who heads a special Senate committee focusing on the problem, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, (R-Alaska), recently called for \$2.25 billion to be set aside to deal with the computer fix.

White House officials said Clinton is doing his part, too. The

president is planning an address on the issue in the next month or so, aides said.

Clinton raised the Year 2000 problem with Latin American leaders at their summit and worked with British Prime Minister Tony Blair to ensure that the communique issued at the end of the recent meeting of the Group of Eight major industrialized nations called attention to the computer challenge.

Asked about the Year 2000 problem at a Rose Garden event earlier this week, Clinton said the government plans to share information with other countries "and do everything we can do to make sure that when the new millennium starts, it's a happy event and not a cyberspace headache."

Gore is taking the issue seriously, Haas said.

"The other party has been quite open about its political strategy of tying any problems that occur specifically to the vice president," he said.

On the Year 2000 computer front, Haas said, "We have the right people in place, we have the right process in place and we do not expect major problems." (Washington Post)

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Warren Beatty in the 'hood

By LLOYD GROVE

Finally, after all those years of being a movie star and an icon of male libido, it has come to this for Warren Beatty: "I'm an old white guy."

It's a shocking admission, but hard to dispute. With his thick mane silvering, his features chiseled and his face marvelously taut (he denies Hollywood chatter about cosmetic nips and tucks), Beatty is 61.

His skin is bright and rosy as he pops mixed nuts into his mouth (those still-sensual lips!) and sips San Pellegrino water in the lounge of the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown.

Yes, the creator of the new movie *Bulworth* — which has just opened in US cinemas and is a meditation on race and politics — is venerable and Caucasian.

"I can't be black. I don't want to be black. I want to be white," explains Shirley MacLaine's little brother — a former star linebacker at Washington and Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia, Class of 1955.

He leans forward to gaze searchingly into his interviewer's eyes.

"I am what I am. If somebody is going to do a movie that's half black and half white, they're either going to be black or white or somewhat black or somewhat white — or something. But you can't be everything to everybody."

The movie is equal parts zany satire and polemic manifesto. A corrupt US senator from California goes batty during the final weekend of his re-election campaign, arranges to have himself killed for the insurance money and unexpectedly finds happiness as a hard-core gangsta rapper.

Falling for the twenty-something daughter of black revolutionaries (Halle Berry), the senator tries to call off the hit while getting down with the people of South Central.

Jay Billington Bulworth (Beatty) reclaims his lost left-wing nobility by donning hip-hop garb and giving his stump speeches in verse-rhyming truth: "The people got their problems! The haves and the have-nots! But the ones who make me listen! Pay for 30-second spots."

"This is not propaganda," Beatty insists. "This is comedy, tragic comedy. Or I would call it more a tragic farce."

In any case, it's his jaundiced yet sentimental take — on American democracy at the end of the millennium.

In most ways, the movie is a departure from such Beatty classics as *Shampoo*, the 1975 film about a Beverly Hills hairdresser who obsessively beds his beautiful clients. But in at least one respect, it is quintessential Warren, the Lothario of legend.

Near the movie's climax,

Bulworth offers the following solution for the problem of racial strife in America: "Everybody has got to keep f---ing everybody till we're all the same color."

So, is it possible to be a sex symbol at 61?

Beatty explodes with laughter. "Is it possible?" he repeats vaguely.

Yes. In the age of Viagra?

"I was gonna say, the next step is Viagra."

BEATTY WROTE the movie with New Yorker Jeremy Pikser after immersing himself in the sights and sounds of the 'hood. For research, he went on drive-alongs with Los Angeles cops and relied on various rap stars such as Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dogg, while picking the brains of black academics such as Harvard professor Cornel West.

Beatty's perceptions, perforce, were warped by the fact that he's a movie star with his very own magnetic field. But he's convinced that he got an undiluted dose of reality.

"It's not like they're building Potemkin villages when I show up," he insists about his visits to South Central. "They either let you in or they didn't."

"These people are as smart as I am. I would say that I was trusted by the people I worked with, and I trusted the people I was working with. But it's not like the greatest job of research that's ever been done."

Beatty, of course, doesn't need to bone up on modern American politics. He knows every inch of the territory. For 20 years, he was perhaps the Democratic Party's premier celebrity activist, working for Bobby Kennedy in 1968, George McGovern in 1972 and as a top adviser to Gary Hart in 1984 and 1988.

By contrast, he kept a low profile in the campaigns of Michael Dukakis and Bill Clinton, and has little involvement today.

But while he confidently takes the gloves off to burlesque political hackery, his jabs are tentative when his target is black urbanity — an area he could barely find on a cultural map a few years ago. Beatty acknowledges as much.

"Let me put it this way. If you're asking me about the African-Americans, I approached that with 10 times the humility, a lot more trepidation, a lot more study, a lot more faith in collaboration than I did a bunch of white guys," he says.

"I'm much more fun — I'm much more comfortable sending up someone that I know better. I'm an old white guy, so I'm comfortable with that. ... So you do your best to find out what you can find out, and at a certain point you roll the dice."

THAT AN old white guy would write, direct and star in such a film — and that conservative media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's 20th

Century Fox would finance it to the tune of \$35 million — is a sure-fire attention-getter on the order of man-bites-doggerel.

And a precarious roll of the dice.

"It's gutsy," says Beatty's pal Hart, the former Colorado senator.

"I can imagine that when he was making this movie he must have been locking horns with the studio, keeping the Fox executives out of there when they wanted to know what was going on."

"I don't know another movie star in my lifetime, at this stage of his career, who would permit himself to be subjected to the humiliation and ridicule that Warren might be subjected to. He's taking an enormous risk."

Hart may be thinking of Beatty's recent appearance on *The Howard Stern Show* — which the actor braved to promote *Bulworth* to what he calls its target audience of "17-to-30-year-olds, alert people, both black



and white."

The scatological radio host mercilessly interrogated the movie star about his sexual partners, his alleged masturbation fantasies and even his bowel movements. Beatty, who chuckled and parried throughout Stern's grilling, miraculously escaped with his dignity.

But Beatty, who calls himself "a wandering Hollywood minstrel," claims to like hustling his movie.

"To tell you the truth, it is actually enjoyable," he says at the Four Seasons as a photographer snaps

away. Beatty presents his left side to the camera, his jaw muscles clenching at each click of the shutter.

"I made the movie. It's over. And I'm a gregarious kind of guy. I like to talk to people." Suddenly he turns on the photographer.

"How long we gonna keep doing this? Because I don't want to keep, like, thinking about photography." The photographer takes the hint and leaves.

Seldom has Beatty worked harder to evangelize one of his movies.

Grass, a monster hit in 1961.

He's regularly captured public attention, for good and for ill, with such movies as *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (1971), *Heaven Can Wait* (1978), *Reds* (1981), *Ishat* (1987) — famous in its day as the most expensive comedy flop in history — *Dick Tracy* (1990), *Bugsy* (1991) and *Love Affair* (1994).

The last two he made with Annette Bening, his wife of six years and the mother of their three children. (The Washington Post)

NEWS

of the muse

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Prizes for piano and voice

Sderot's 23-year-old pianist Albert Memriev recently won the first prize in the Nuova Acropolis competition in Madrid. The pianist, who immigrated to Israel three years ago from the former Soviet Union, is a student of Prof. Arie Vardi. Anna Skibinsky, 24, won the first (\$5,000) prize in the Jerusalem Rubin Academy Vera Rozsa Nordell Vocal Competition for Israeli singers, performing arias from *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *La Traviata* in the finales.

Second prize (\$3,000) went to Shira Schweitzer, who sang lieder by Mahler, and third prize (\$2,000) went to Assaf Levitin, who sang Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*.

Changing batons

The incoming and outgoing music directors of the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa will be here this month. Trevor Pinnock, who is about to conclude his position with the Canadian orchestra, makes his Israeli debut with his *English Consort* within the Israel Festival.

Pinchas Zukerman, who takes over the Ottawa orchestra, will be conducting and playing solo violin with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

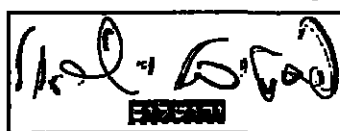
Orchestras in and out

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem has just returned from a lengthy tour of Germany and the US with clarinetist Giora Feidman and pianist Alexander Korsantya as soloists. Music critics in both countries were enthusiastic about the orchestra's performance and its extensive repertoire.

The Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra, meanwhile, is currently on tour in Germany performing Mendelssohn's *Eljah* as well as music by Prokofiev, Bloch, Michael Wolpe and Beni Nagari in special concerts commemorating Israel's 50th anniversary.

Music director Doron Solomon is on the podium and the soloists are Ram Oren (trumpet), Chen Zimbalista (percussion) and Sergei Ostrovsky (violin).

Lively Haydn



ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEW

By URY EPPSTEIN

The Alban Berg Quartet embodied the European music performance tradition at its purest in its presentation covering the Classic through the Romantic to the 20th century repertoire — Haydn, Brahms and Bartok.

ALBAN BERG QUARTET

Jerusalem Theater May 29

A thoroughly homogeneous, melodic, meticulously balanced sound manifested itself from the opening notes of Haydn's String Quartet op. 76. A touch of drama and an elastic dance lilt injected refreshing liveliness into the Minuet.

For intensity of expression, Bartok's String Quartet No. 2 was the highlight. The Moderato's tor-

tured mood, the Allegro molto's forced capriciousness, and the Lento's profound resignation were expressed with intense sensitivity.

In Brahms's String Quartet op. 67, emphasis was placed on the refined aesthetic aspects of music performance. Tastefully controlled emotion and a refined sense of style were this rendition's major virtues.

TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

Jerusalem Theater — Sherever — Pilobolus dance, repertory evening, 9 p.m.

Rebecca Crown — The Right Size theater, *Do You Come Here Often?*, 9 p.m.

Plaza — The Sun Clowns, acrobatics, juggling etc., 6 p.m. (for kids); ethnic music, Tango-Bar, 7:45 p.m.; violin and piano trio, classical music, 9 p.m. (all free)

Foyer — guitar duo, 8 p.m.; jazz quintet, 11:15 p.m. (all free)

International Convention Center — Sao Paulo Ballet, 2 and *De Repente*, 9 p.m.

Dormition Abbey — Marie-Claire Alain, organ music by Bach, 8 p.m.

Classics and jazz unite for the summer

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Jazz has always been a most welcome visitor in the classical music hall even if occasionally some eyebrows were raised.

The obvious jazz elements in Gershwin's music, for example, at times in Bernstein, Shostakovich and many other composers, have become part of the 20th century classical music diet.

But one tends to associate jazz primarily with light classics and not with the more so-called "serious works" of the repertoire.

Since light classics are usually performed in the summertime, it

seems that come June, you will find many a jazz-inspired work performed by our symphony orchestras.

This Saturday, for example, the Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra concludes its season with a classic jazz concert featuring the premiere of Yevgeni Levitas' *Beautiful Day*, a concerto for trumpet with the composer as soloist, as well as the music of Gershwin, Ellington, Porter and others.

Next Sunday and Monday, Yaron Gutfreid leads the Israel Chamber Orchestra in a contemporary program featuring

Shostakovich's first concerto for piano and trumpet, Moshe Zorman's *Vocalise* for trumpet and strings, his own concerto for electric guitar, strings and percussion, and excerpts from Claude Bolling's third suite for jazz trio and chamber orchestra.

And later in the month (June 24, 25), Sergiu Comissiona leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in an all-Gershwin evening.

There is nothing wrong with such programs; quite the contrary. Gershwin is one of the greatest American composers, and Claude Bolling is one of our contemporaries who knew how to combine

the jazz and classical music worlds in a most intriguing way.

But the question remains, why do these concerts have to be summer fare?

Let's end the season with a smile, say many music directors — and there lies the major problem.

If the only reason one performs a jazz-oriented piece in the classical music hall is for the audience to smile, then we are all missing the point.

Jazz is a great art form in its own right, and its elements reign

supreme in numerous classical music works. If we want to treat jazz in a more serious manner — and all classical musicians should do so — then we must not ghettoize it in end-of-season summer lighter concerts.

By playing jazz in September and December, as well as in June, classical music would give jazz the stamp of approval this great music rightfully deserves.

Only this will finally make jazz an equal partner and not a stranger in the night at the concert hall.

When glorious music doesn't work

CLASSIC DISCS

Last year, renowned Italian maestro Claudio Abbado used the leading disc company Deutsche Grammophon for releasing a disc of adagio movements from various symphonies.

Abbado was angry that movements from recordings he has made of full symphonies were extracted and presented independently in a new format without his consent.

The sides eventually came to an understanding, but the incident illustrates the situation prevailing in today's recording industry.

Numerous collection albums are out on the market in which the various labels use their extensive catalogue to create thematic collections of one nature or another — opera collections, dance music collections, romantic collections and artist collections. You simply arrange about 70 minutes of music per disc and you can recycle your existing catalogue again and again and again.

It might not be ethical — if ethics is of any concern to anyone in business in general and the classical music business in particular — but it seems to work, at least for the

music companies.

Whether they are always musically successful is another story.

Passage to Paradise (EMI Classics 5 69241 2, two discs for the price of one), features 33 short selections of sacred music numbers, all excerpted from much larger works, totaling altogether close to 150 minutes of undoubtedly great music.

But can the Mozart Requiem really be enjoyed through hearing just one of its movements? And is the Lux aeterna the best representation of Verdi's Requiem? And why nothing more contemporary than Bruckner or music written before Bruckner and Vivaldi?

This is a middle-of-the-road choral music album with some of the world's great conductors, choirs and singers, from Karajan and Barenboim to Giulini and Muri. It features highlights from some of EMI's best recordings and contains glorious music, but I don't believe it works.

I'm not talking about the actual choices, some of which I would seriously question. But the fact is that opera arias can very well work out of context. Movements from masses and requiems are not independent, as arias are. They are part of a whole and this whole is definitely missing here.

So if you are not at all familiar

with this music, this might just be a nice introduction. But if you really want to savor the splendor of the Fauré Requiem, the Rossini Stabat Mater or the great oratorios and masses of Mozart, Haydn and their contemporaries, listen to each work in its entirety.

The much less presumptuous *Nocturnes* (Virgin Classics 5 61467 2) features some musical gems which are perfect as soothing background music. Again, some might question the selections but on the whole this very eclectic album of music ranging from Fauré's *Pavane* to Moussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* has more than a few charming moments.

Not all of the performers are familiar stars but pianist Mikhail Pletnev emerges as a very sensitive musician in selections by Chopin and Beethoven as well as Mozart and the English Chamber Orchestra plays in a very delectable manner.

Nocturnes will never sell as well as *Passage to Paradise*. It has a much narrower appeal. Yet in many ways it is more satisfying, because it doesn't seem as fragmented.

Such collection discs are here to stay and might very well form the bulk of new releases in the near future. But to make them more exciting, the industry will have to focus on something more specific than paradise.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18. IF I WAS A RICH MAN... Baron Edmund de Rothschild helped the first aliyah with great generosity. We'll see some of the benefits when we visit beautiful ZICHRON YA'ACOV, overlooking the Mediterranean, BAT SHLOMO, the MIKVE YISRAEL agricultural school, and the MIZGAGA MUSEUM center for archeological research. GUIDE: Avi Ben Hur. NIS 225.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21. THE BIBLE SITES BEFORE YOUR EYES Tour guide and Bible scholar Arie Salomon leads you to the sites while you read from the sources. HAR GIL, JUDAH & TAMAR, DAVID & GOLIATH in the Valley of Elai, the LACHISH letters, and fire signals from AZEKA, the MIDRAS caves. Everything comes into focus in this not-to-be-missed tour. NIS 225.

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Water challenges

It is for good reason that Israel's water sources, and its future water supply have been included among the critical issues to be dealt with in final-status talks. The task of managing what in this region is a scarce resource is a challenge that Israelis and Palestinians have each not fully risen to, but could provide a model for joint cooperation.

The coastal aquifer, one of Israel's main sources of water, is deteriorating, according to the latest annual report of the Israel Hydrological Service. Israel's water utility monopoly, Mekorot, assures us that the quality of our water will not be affected, but there are still lessons to be learned from Israel's past mistakes in water management.

According to the recent IHS report, 13 percent of the coastal aquifer is already too contaminated by salts and nitrates to use as drinking water. For the past 60 years or so, Israel has overexploited this natural supply of underground water, resulting in its contamination by seawater intrusion and fertilizer runoff.

Aquifers are a cheap source of water, but if they are overdrawn they can be destroyed and will no longer naturally replenish themselves. Overuse of cheap water now, therefore, means being forced to use more expensive sources down the road.

The coastal aquifer, as a renewable resource, is in jeopardy. The Gaza coastal aquifer is already in such a polluted state that most Palestinian households do not have potable water. If both Israel and the Palestinians do not make the right choices now, the mountain aquifer will be the next to important water source to be threatened.

At a meeting of the multilateral negotiating group on water in Oslo last month, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians agreed that in the longer run — say 25 years — desalination will be the key to fulfilling the region's growing water needs. As technology improves, the cost of desalination is going down, but it is still too high for most agricultural uses to make economic sense.

In fact, agricultural water is already heavily subsidized, so that the average family pays over three times as much as farmers do for a cubic meter of water. As a result, Israel — and the Palestinians — continue to grow crops, such as citrus and wheat, that would not make economic sense.

ic sense at the unsubsidized price of water. It is misleading to speak of a water shortage in a situation in which the country is still essentially paying farmers to use water. By exporting the products of water-intensive agriculture, Israel is also exporting water — not a normal thing to do in the case of a commodity that is ostensibly in shortage.

In such a situation, the obvious way to stretch the nation's water supply is to phase out the subsidization of water to its greatest consumer, agriculture. Agriculture has already cut back its proportion of national water consumption from over 80 percent about twenty years ago to about 60 percent today. In the Palestinian areas — and Jordan — this trend has not yet begun, and agriculture still consumes 80 to 90 percent of the water supply.

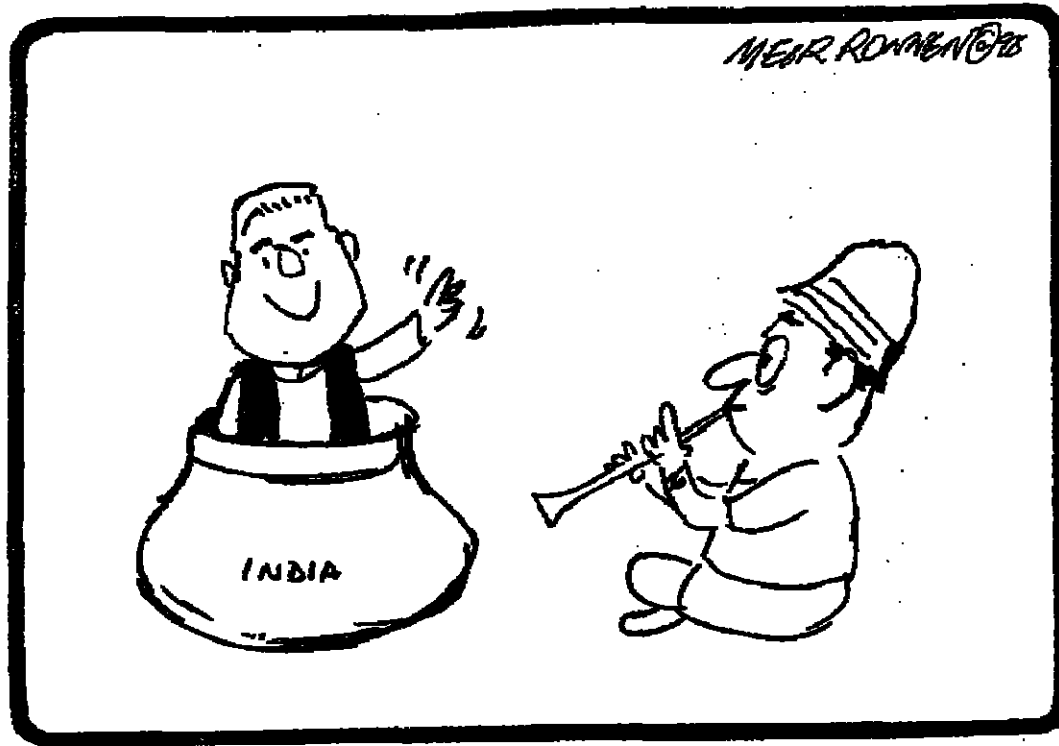
Already, the region has been coping with its water shortage by importing what one analyst calls "virtual water" — the water contained in the food that the region imports. As Tony Allan wrote in Bar-Ilan University's journal *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, "More water flows into the area as virtual water each year than flows down the Nile for Egypt's agriculture."

The trend towards importing water-intensive products, and towards exporting higher value agricultural products, such as flowers, should be continued and intensified by reducing water subsidies. In addition, Israel, already a leader in the field of recycling water for agricultural use, can do more.

The IHS report, however, notes that the use of lower quality recycled water in agriculture has increased contamination of the water table, indicating that recycling should not be regarded as a panacea.

In Oslo II, a joint Israeli-Palestinian system was set up to monitor drilling of the mountain aquifer and to ensure protection of the environment that sustains it. So far, the system has been successful in protecting the mountain aquifer as a renewable resource.

As the parties move toward final status talks, it is critical that this cooperation be continued and deepened to protect this shared resource. One need only look to the coastal and Gaza aquifers to see what past negligence has brought, and what must be prevented in the future.



The Oslo process

I have just read Uri Savir's *The Process*, which gives a blow-by-blow description of the birth of the peace process and its subsequent involvement under Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. It is a remarkable book, and should be read by supporters and antagonists of Oslo alike.

For the first time we are given full access to what really happened in Oslo. Through the pages of *The Process* we participate in the complex, convoluted negotiations which were conducted, often far from the watchful eye of the media, between Israel and Palestinian teams and which laid the groundwork for what should have been peace and normal relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Process gives the lie to many of the well known "facts" which have been implanted into the minds of the public by the well-oiled propaganda machine of the present government.

There was no wholesale surrender at Oslo or in the herculean talks which were held in Eilat, Taba and elsewhere, as the detractors of Oslo would have us believe.

Far from it. Uri Savir, Joel Singer, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Uzi Dayan, Ilan Biran and all the others fought like tigers over every disputable point. Above all, security was, in the words of Uri Savir, "an absolute value."

"We will have our security, and you will have your dignity" was a formula Peres was wont to say to the Palestinians. *The Process* shows clearly that on questions of security there was no "give," no compromises. As Savir stressed to Abu Ala, "Israel must have overriding responsibilities for security. If we agree on these terms, this principle, the rest of the details can be worked out."

The "rest of the details" for the Palestinians were, above all, the end of humiliation, the demand to be treated as equals and, of course, the question of land. The amount of land to be handed over was then, as it is now, one of paramount importance.

Yet on this crucial point, Savir reveals that the negotiations were based on "the army's assessment of what were essential security areas, given the need to secure the settlements too." Rabin, according

DAVID KIMCHE

to Savir, was willing on this basis to offer eventually roughly 50% of the West Bank on completing the third redeployment.

However, the talks on the permanent peace status were due to begin 16 months before the third redeployment, and according to Rabin's assessment, the third redeployment would have, by then, become redundant. Thus, the

We are paying the price today for the obtuseness, arrogance and lack of honesty which mark the government's pursuit of peace

amount of land to be given back beforehand was considerably less, probably less than the present government may eventually be obliged to give.

If we examine the figure that arises from the maps of the Netanyahu government, we can assume that on this crucial case of land, there is probably not such very large difference between the negotiators of Oslo and our present hard-line government.

The one big difference is the question of the settlements: whereas the previous government intended to create two large areas in which most of the settlements would be concentrated and the isolated ones would be removed, Binyamin Netanyahu evidently wants to keep all of them in place.

And whereas Netanyahu bows to the demands of the settlers, they were the main bone of contention throughout Savir's negotiations. As Peres once said: "Today we must decide who is in charge in this country: the government or a handful of settlers. And to you generals I say: ...enough of this dread of how the settlers will react."

GIVEN that on this paramount question — the amount of land to be returned before the beginning

of the permanent status talks — the difference is not so great, the question must be asked why are we in such deep crisis now as compared to the state of affairs that existed during Rabin and Peres's rule.

The answer can be found in the pages of *The Process*. If ever there was truth in the French expression "c'est le ton qui fait la musique" it can be found now, in our crisis of confidence between Israel and the Palestinians, the Arabs in general and, indeed, between Israel and the rest of the world.

During Savir's negotiations one of the buzz-words was "cooperation." As Abu Ala said, "We're interested in cooperating with you in all areas of life. Naturally we want our national rights and the liberty we deserve. But we realize this can be enjoyed through cooperation with you, perhaps more than with any other neighbor."

For despite all the heated arguments, the dissensions, the crises which marked those lengthy negotiations, there existed human empathy, mutual respect and a measure of confidence that each side was honestly doing its utmost to reach a formula that would allow both peoples to live side by side in peace and security.

All that has now gone, vanished. Instead of cooperation, we have confrontation. Instead of mutual respect and confidence, we have suspicion and hostility. Instead of hope we have despair, and as Abu Ala told Uri Savir, hope, or the lack of it, is intrinsically bound to violence.

We shall eventually reach the peace whose seeds were sown in Oslo. Our present government will, in the end, make no less concessions for it than the previous government would have made. But it could have been achieved so differently, and what a senseless price we are paying today for the obtuseness, the arrogance, the lack of understanding of our region and — let us face it — the lack of honesty which have become the hallmarks of our government's pursuit of peace.

The writer, a former director general of the foreign ministry, is chairman of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

Women power

DAVID NEWMAN

Netanya's new mayor is a woman, Vered Swed. This shouldn't be so surprising — after all, half the country's population is female. But it is surprising because this is only the second occasion in Israel's history that a woman has become mayor of a major city, and she joins only two other women who serve as heads of Israel's 250 municipalities.

Local government must be the worst example of woman power in the country. Despite the fact that local government authorities deal with a multitude of problems which affect the daily lives of households and families, women have rarely risen to prominence in municipal politics.

Not that the situation in national politics is that much better, although it has slightly improved in recent years. From the days in which the figure of Golda Meir was seen as the exception to the rule, an increasing, albeit not enough, number of women have obtained places as members of the Knesset. Add to this a couple of Supreme Court judges, the recently retired state comptroller and a university rector, and the situation is marginally better than it was twenty years ago.

But there remains a significant lack of female representation in the corridors of power — be it national or local. This is all the more surprising given the widespread system of legislation which ensures rights for women in most spheres of life, especially those relating to maternity benefits and social welfare.

But Israeli society — Jewish and Arab — remains strongly male biased. This is partly due to orthodox-religious influences which continue to relegate women to secondary status, as well as the general male macho atmosphere stemming from the male-dominated military ethos. The recent debate surrounding the swearing-in ceremony of President Ezer Weizman made these biases extremely clear.

In the past, there has been talk of creating a woman's party which would run for the Knesset. While only a relatively small percentage of Israel's female population are

The new mayor of Netanya is but a drop in the ocean on the way to female empowerment

likely to vote for such a party, the peculiarities of the Israeli electoral system are such that this number should be sufficient to ensure entry into the Knesset. A small woman's faction could then have a major say in the putting together of a coalition government.

And then again, it should not be beyond the imagination for a woman to run for prime minister under the direct elections system. In a country in which the Netanyahu-Peres contest was decided by the minute margin of 15,000 votes, it is not inconceivable that a woman candidate could hold a critical balance which could be used to good effect in a second round of voting.

TRUE, there cannot be any real long-term interest in maintaining a woman's party or in attempting to mobilize political support for women's issues only. But, as has happened with so many other sectors of Israeli society, sectoral interests are only recognized if, and when, representatives of these groups create their own separate political lobbies.

Looking at the current political scene, there are only two women who appear to have any real chance of attaining significant political power in the next few years. One, Limor Livnat, is proving to be an extremely able communications minister, while her opposite number, Dalit Itzhak, has a past record which would strongly support her as a future education minister, if and when the Labor Party were ever to return to power.

Women have to be tough to fight their way into the male-dominated halls of power. Thus female politics has thrown up such redoubtable international figures as Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi and Golda Meir. The tough stances that they adopt do not endear them to female, let alone male, voters. They are, in effect, caught in a Catch-22 situation. To achieve success, they have to be extra-tough and outspoken while this, in turn, makes them unpopular amongst potential future voters.

It is indeed refreshing to have a woman as a major city mayor. But even this is only a temporary position arising out of the resignation of the incumbent mayor, as Swed has already stated she will not be standing for reelection.

Local government should provide a natural stage for increasing the number of women who occupy important decision-making positions. But there do not, at present, seem to be many women who are prepared to contest these elections. The less the pity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE FESTIVAL'S ROLE

Sir — As a member of the Israel Festival Board, I wish to take issue with the gist of Michael Ajzenstadt's comments in "Festival a classical disappointment" (May 24).

As a person with professional connections with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, The New Israel Opera and The Jerusalem Symphony, Ajzenstadt surely knows that it is all but impossible to approach the greatest names in music and ask them to give you a date for a performance which will take place between May 27 and June 13.

Considering this, we have done extremely well, bringing such greats as Kathleen Battle, one of the world's leading sopranos, the Alban Berg Quartet, The English Concert and for the first time in Israel, The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, to name but a few.

The Israel Festival also serves to introduce the Israeli public to some of the new and upcoming musical luminaries which a commercial enterprise might not undertake: to wit the Florestan Trio, regarded as one of the upcoming piano trios in the world. We see our mandate in a very different light from that described by Ajzenstadt, who seems to misunderstand the role of our Festival. We do not wish to, nor do we compete with commercial enterprises that flood the Israeli musical marketplace with the best-known names in music.

Our role is primarily that of bringing to the public those who are maybe less known, but are still good or upcoming and who might otherwise remain unknown to the Israeli public.

And yes, within a very limited budget, we must try to encompass all artistic endeavors as well as accompanist various public tastes, which are not necessarily only classical music performances.

We must also remember that the 50th anniversary calls for special programs of a local nature, which have to be part of the Israel Festival — all in a short period of time and a small budget.

To call our success a "poor man's attempt" or "dismal" tends to show bias, not just a lack of understanding of what the role of the Festival is all about.

JONATHAN LIVNY
Jerusalem.

FALSE HEADLINE

Sir, I was shocked and hurt by the headline "Conservative prayers at Wall cause near-riot" (June 1). Will *The Jerusalem Post* now join the throngs that call any act that they don't like "incitement"? How any self-respecting newspaper could ascribe the action of peaceful prayer to "causing" any violent activity is beyond understanding.

You may just as well have reported that the declaration of the State of Israel "caused" the Arab nations to attack. What has happened to the individual's responsibility for his or her actions? Who actually caused the

violence that occurred at the Wall? First of all, a group of Conservative Jews prayed at the plaza to the rear of the Wall and a group of haredi youth jeered and yelled at them while the police held the middle ground. In addition to the jeering, a couple of bags of milk were thrown. Just what, by your definition, constitutes a "near-riot"? How many were arrested and injured in this "near-riot"?

STUART GOLDSTEIN
Ramat Yishai.

GO TO IT

Sir — After reading Ronald Green's letter "Rosenblum's venom" (May 22) one wonders what it is about Jonathan Rosenblum's articles that inspires the "Love to Hate Jonathan Club" to such feverish rage.

Is it the realization that there are some within the ranks of those dismissed as ignorant, uncultured "fundamentalist" Jews who can respond eruditely to the vitriol poured forth daily upon them by the media, in their own coin? That there exist those who have absorbed all that the secular world can teach and who remain faithful to the ways of the Torah?

Yes, Rosenblum touched on a raw nerve in "For this we yearned?" (May 15) and it seems that Green would be happier if Rosenblum were not afforded a podium in the *Post*, as he writes, "With Rosenblum writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, who needs enemies?"

To him, because Rosenblum decries the present state of Israel's image, he is The Enemy. No, it is Rosenblum's love of Israel, and his vision of what Israel could be that inspires his writing. Green would do well to reread the works of some of the secular Zionists (one wonders if that is not an oxymoron) among Israel's founders.

Perhaps he would conclude that they too would be appalled at the current state of a segment of Israeli society and the "culture" it has embraced.

Go to it, Jonathan Rosenblum, and call it as you see it.

N. SHENKER
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On June 3, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Security Council authorized Count Folke Bernadotte to fix the time and conditions for an agreed-upon cease-fire. Announced just the day before, the cease-fire lasted only three hours before the Arabs renewed

aerial attacks and artillery bombardment on all fronts. In Jerusalem, as newsboys ran through the streets announcing the cease-fire, shells were shot from Arab Legion guns under the command of British officers for the 19th consecutive day.

25 years ago: On June 3, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* announced

that — in a 90-page report by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) — Israel was completely exonerated from blame for the downing of a Libyan Boeing aeroplane which had crashed in Sinai in February, resulting in the loss of more than 100 lives.

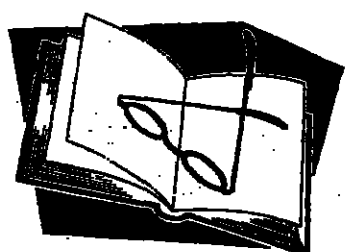
Alexander Zvielli



An aging Spock with his young second wife: The rock of family values proved surprisingly hollow. (AP)

Physician, heal thyself

Book Review



By Brenda L. Becker

Dr. Spock: An American Life, by Thomas Maier (Harcourt Brace, 488 pp., \$30.)

When Dr. Benjamin Spock died in March at age 94, his obituaries were as overstuffed and unlikely as a John Irving novel. The two main acts of Spock's epochal career — as author of the Baby Boom child care bible and then, in the 1960s, as goofy aging anti-war protester — were familiar enough.

But who remembered that Spock, as a gangling Yale, rowed on the US gold-medal crew team in the "Chariots of Fire" Olympics? Or that Spock, the pediatrician turned radical, ran for president on a third-party ticket in 1972? (The best-selling author in American publishing history got 78,000 votes.)

Or that Spock, the family-values icon, divorced his wife of nearly 50 years and married an earthy feminist 40 years his junior?

Thomas Maier renders these episodes in "moderately juicy" and "moderately accurate" requisite pasty news flash: Dr. Spock: America's god of parenting, was a pretty lousy father.

Spock's life didn't so much span the American century as embody it. Young Ben received a stern Victorian upbringing from his overbearing mother and emotionally distant father. In medical school he was attracted to the humanistic side of pediatrics, which in the 1930s was close to nonexistent. Child-care guides still admonished mothers not to kiss their babies, and nurseries

tied up infants' hands to prevent thumb-sucking.

Influenced by his vivacious but troubled wife Jane, who spent virtually her entire adult life in psychotherapy, Spock sought to weave psychoanalytic insights into the mundane mysteries of weaning, toilet training and the like.

The genius of his book *Baby and Child Care*, first published in 1946, was that it cloaked Freudian concepts in folksy, reassuring terms for postwar parents seeking a better way to raise their kids.

The book's famous opening lines — "Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do" — made him the man that mothers would die for, and the book became a cultural touchstone.

On his own home front, however, Spock seemed to know less than he thought he did.

His powerhouse career left his family life strained and hollow. His two sons recall him as, yes, stern and emotionally distant. His wife, wracked by mental illness and alcoholism, felt eclipsed and shut out. Near retirement age, Spock decided that "pediatrics is politics" and launched into Vietnam War protesting. America winced as its avuncular family doctor flailed around with hippies and stood trial on federal conspiracy charges.

Book sales slid as suspicion grew that the Flower Children were a generation (as Spiro Agnew quipped) "Spock-marked" by permissiveness.

Spock spent his final years as a benevolent far-Left fossil, tirelessly lecturing, revising the book for political correctness, and eating macrobiotic food on a sailboat with his second wife.

Maier weaves an engrossing tale but, clearly charmed by Spock, he lets him off the hook a bit easily, especially when it comes to Spock's unrepentant political naiveté and egotism.

The question of how the man who mass-marketed compassion and insight to America's parents could be both cold and clueless remains intriguingly unanswered. (The Baltimore Sun)

When 'experts' become parents

Fears, anxieties, outbursts of anger — how well do child psychologists deal with these emotions when it's their own children who provoke them? Mary Jo Kochakian reports

Not that many authors of parenting books seem to have the guts to do it. But if they are brave enough, it's great to hear about their own anxieties — and some of their dumb mistakes.

One example is *The Mother Dance*, a new book by psychologist Harriet Lerner of the Menninger Clinic in Kansas.

"No matter what your personal experience, a new baby will teach you a lot," Lerner writes.

"Personally, I learned humility. Before I had a child, I was often aghast at the stupid behavior I observed in other parents. I knew that I, for one, would never engage in any of these improper actions — like comparing my baby to others, worrying excessively, or fighting with his father within the baby's earshot.

"Of course I didn't have a clue. I did all these things, and many more besides. We can't begin to know what our children will evoke in us until we have them."

Also: "I know countless women who developed a fear of flying after having children, myself included. I remember an especially difficult year when my boys were little and I was doing a fair amount of professional travel.

For days before my departure, waves of anxiety would wash over me as I imagined my plane, engulfed in flames, plummeting to the ground."

She had to fly so much that she got over it.

"But to this day," she says, "I worry that if I fly with my husband, the plane may go down, leaving our children entirely without parents. So I have insisted for the past 22 years that Steve and I not fly together."

"This practice, in addition to being terribly inconvenient, makes no logical sense. If I were even a teensy bit rational, I would fly with Steve and insist that we take separate ground transportation. After all, flying is safer than driving in almost all circumstances."

"But who's rational? Sometimes we mothers need to honor our worries even when we can't justify them."

"Honor our worries" seems to imply that as a parent, you're going to be at least a little nutty.

NANCY Samalin is a professional parent educator in New York who runs workshops and is the author of *Loving Your Child Is Not Enough and Love and Anger*.

"I never even knew I had a temper until I had children," she writes in *Love and Anger*. Also, "No one was more surprised than I the first time I heard myself screaming out of control at one of my children."

"I had always considered myself a very mild person. No one had ever accused me of having a temper — and, in fact, when I was a teacher (before my children were born), parents sometimes remarked on what they considered to be my endless reserves of patience."

In *Love and Anger* Samalin points out that anger is inevitable, and that parents can



Anger is inevitable and parents can learn to handle it so it doesn't hurt kids or leave parents with

learn to handle it so it doesn't hurt kids — or leave parents with shame attacks.

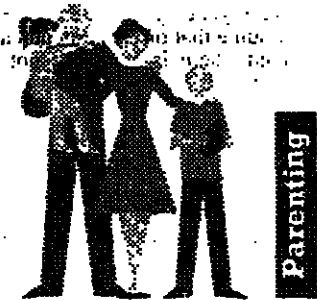
Samalin only wishes she had known this when her kids were little.

We have an odd either-or mentality toward our professional advice-givers. It may be jarring, for example, to find out that the shrink who saved your marriage is getting divorced.

It doesn't diminish their work. It's just that we're all the same with our families — learning as we go along, sometimes doing it the hard way.

(The Hartford Courant)

A firm hand does not mean a cold heart



By Ruth Mason

Today this column begins a new, occasional feature: case histories of families that have been helped through consultation with a mental health professional. (Clients' names have been changed to protect their privacy.)

Hilorie Baer, a therapist in private practice and with the AACI psychological services, was visit-

ed by a mother who was worried about her five-year-old daughter.

Shani was having daily tantrums during which she would completely lose control. If things didn't go her way, she would cry hysterically, demand to have her way and make a scene, which was very hard for her mother Miriam to take.

When her mother sent the child to her room, Shani would throw her toys around and sometimes destroy them in the process. During these episodes Miriam would become upset and very emotional. She was anxious about the tantrums, and felt they interfered with her loving feelings toward her daughter.

Baer: "Miriam's anxiety about her relationship with her daughter made it very difficult for her to discipline Shani and be firm with her during her tantrums."

"All of us get angry at our kids, and at times we don't even like

them. It would be unnatural not to feel that way. But sometimes the guilt parents experience over these feelings gets in the way of their ability to discipline. They see discipline as an expression of hostile feelings toward their children, rather than as a way of helping them."

"When a mother feels like she just can't stand her child, she feels sorry for her and doesn't want to hear further 'misery' on her by disciplining her. It's as though parents are protecting their children from their negative feelings about them by being soft."

"I began by asking Miriam to talk not just about the problem, but about all aspects of her relationship with Shani. I saw that she had enormous empathy and sensitivity toward her child, and that this was her great strength as a parent. She really saw Shani, look in her struggles, felt for her."

"I reflected this strength back to

her, using many examples from the stories she had told me.

"As I saw it, what Miriam really wanted to do with this child was comfort her. But when Shani was out of control, she wouldn't allow her mother to do so. What she needed at those times were firm lines — control and discipline — a parent who had the ability to say 'no' without feeling guilty."

"Miriam was intimidated not only by her child, but by her own natural aggressive feelings toward that child, so she couldn't become appropriately angry. Shani then felt she had total control, which I think was frightening for the child."

"What helped Miriam was having the situation framed in a way that allowed her to understand herself, rather than just being told what to do."

"A therapist can tell a parent to be 'firm,' but if the parent does not

understand why he or she is not being firm, the advice won't necessarily take hold."

"What had been getting in Miriam's way was fear: fear that there was something wrong with her child, that there was something wrong with herself as a mother."

"Through our work together over three months, Miriam learned that her feelings were normal, and she became less judgmental concerning herself. She stopped being so scared by her daughter's behavior and by her own feelings. She felt better about herself as a parent because she saw that her difficulty emanated from something positive — her empathy and sensitivity."

"The severity and frequency of Shani's tantrums diminished. Essentially, her mother had relaxed."

"When we are able to relax, we become better at everything we do — including parenting."

ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 9/132 for Development of a New MITAR System

Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. (hereafter "the Corporation") invites bids for the development of a new MITAR system, in a two-stage process.

MITAR is a system which assists network programmers to write job orders after the planning stage, and to produce cost estimates and a list of catalog numbers in order to produce warehouse slips.

The existing MITAR system is over 20 years old. Using a central computer, it sends and receives information from the REEM 2 logistics system, using ON-LINE and BATCH interfaces.

Bidders must comply with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).

Bids must also comply with the conditions stated in paragraph 0.18 in the management chapter.

A meeting for bidders will take place at the offices of the Israel Electric Corporation, at 16 Rehov Hahashmal, Tel Aviv, in the meeting room on the fifth floor, on July 2, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. The Israel Electric Corporation is entitled to refuse entry to the meeting to bidders who have not purchased the tender documents.

The tender documents and further information may be obtained from the Information Systems and Telecommunications Division, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa (11th floor, room 1111), Tel. 04-868-7295, Sunday - Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., from June 4, 1998.

The tender documents are available on submission of a receipt for the sum of NIS 1,030 (inc. VAT), demonstrating payment into the Corporation's account at any branch of the Postal Bank. This payment is non-refundable. Payment slips may be obtained from the above address. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Corporation at the above address.

Bids must be put in a sealed envelope and placed in the Tenders Box on the 11th floor of the Pal-Yam building, by July 16, 1998, at 3 p.m.

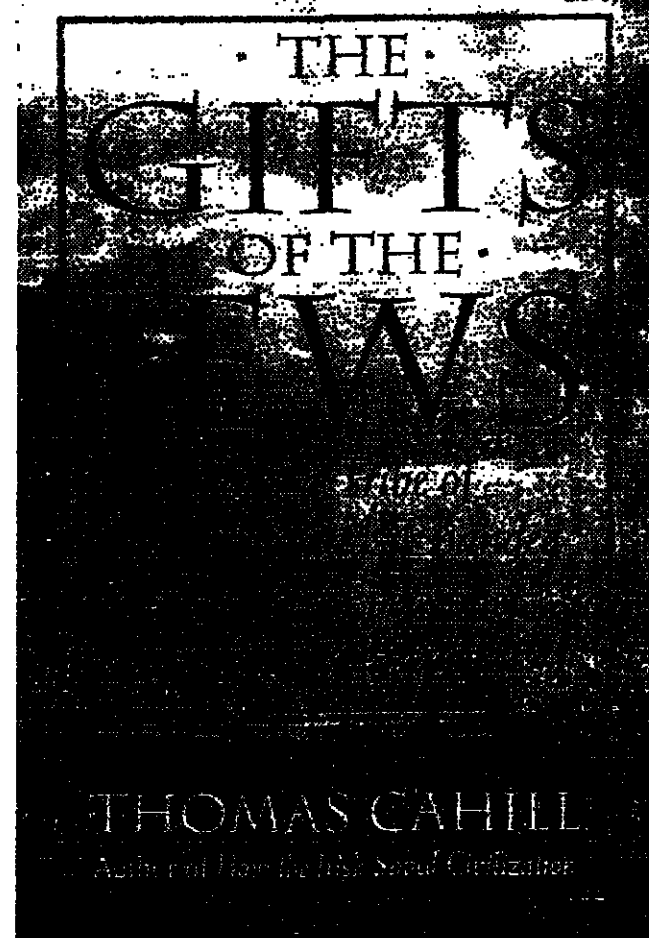
The Corporation reserves the right to negotiate with various bidders at its sole discretion.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

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By BatSheva Mink
and David Brauner

Down the primrose path

Over the last few years the primrose has burst on to the Israeli gardening scene. Local gardeners have quickly warmed to the small, delicate primrose's spectrum of colors and the brightness it brings to their gardens during the dull days of winter and early spring.

Like the rose, the primrose has endeared itself to great English poets, Wordsworth, Milton and, above all, Shakespeare, who favored this plant with many references in his plays and poetry. There is a grassy bank - "the primrose path" - leading from the door of Anne Hathaway's cottage at Shottery to the orchard where primroses bloom in springtime to this day. Thoughts of the Bard's dead son Hamlet, for whom he grieved throughout his life, were likely in his mind when he wrote these lines in a scene of Cymbeline:

"With fairest flowers,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave.
Thou shalt not lack
The flower that's like thy face,
pale primrose..." (IV,ii,218).

The primrose was also Benjamin Disraeli's (Lord Beaconsfield) favorite flower. In England, Primrose Day falls on April 19, the day of Disraeli's death.

The plant takes its name from the Latin *primula veris*, meaning "first flower" and refers to the early appearance of its flowers in spring. From "primula," the English word developed into primrose, or "first rose." The Hebrew name translates primula as *b'chor aviv* ("the first of spring").

The *Primula* genus belongs to the family *Primulaceae* of herbaceous plants of cosmopolitan distribution. The primula is related to the scarlet pimpernel and the cyclamen, among others. The more than 600 different species of primula are found throughout the northern temperate regions, and occasionally extend into the tropics with one or two isolated species in southern South America.

It is almost impossible to generalize about such a large genus. The only thing all the species have in common is their hatred of dry conditions during the growing season, and liking relatively cool summers.

The primrose is one of the loveliest of all European native

flowers. Of all the 'cottage garden' plants, the primrose is the classic. However, like many other plants, primroses have had their periods of popularity interspersed with periods of neglect. At the moment they are increasingly popular.

These plants were originally cultivated mainly for medicinal purposes rather than for decoration, and there are many references to the primula in early herbals. In his novel *Lothair*, Disraeli also refers to their food value: "They say primroses make a capital salad." It was during the reigns of the Tudors that primroses first came to be widely grown for the beauty and interest of their flowers. The common primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) native to Great Britain grows to 15cm. tall with its famous five-petal, light yellow flowers that bloom in March and April.

Over the past 70 years, breeders, particularly German and Austrian growers in the early decades of the century, have developed quite a number of hybrids. The story of primrose hybridization started with the discovery of the small *Primula juliae* species found in the south-eastern Caucasus in 1901. This was crossed with the European common primula (*P. vulgaris*). The result was larger flowers with a broader color range and a longer flowering season. Now, not only does the primrose come in practically every color of the rainbow, but it is also one of the few flowers of the plant kingdom which possess the true blue. Many plants that look blue are, in fact, a color mixed with purple or red.

Many beautiful species were brought from Japan and China in the later 19th century. The *P. obconica* was introduced into Europe from China, and became an instant hit. Because it is not as hardy as the native European primroses, it is usually grown as a greenhouse plant or on cool window sills inside.

Because the primula is essentially a cool weather plant, it takes a little extra coaxing along with TLC (tender loving care) to settle in Israeli gardens. After all, what gardener does not like a challenge once in a while?

Primroses are naturally more likely to flourish in cooler regions of the country. But if we have one of our sudden heat waves in the early spring as we had this year, primroses will suffer miserably. The leaves and flowers are likely to collapse completely due to the heat and lack of water.

And as they require cool conditions during the summer months, growing primroses from seed is

also difficult, though not impossible. But being practical, most gardeners prefer to buy already growing plants from nurseries.

Primroses can be grown in pots outside, but the pots must be placed in a sheltered position, because the plants do not stand up to cold as well when in pots as they do in the open ground. Experts believe that as the outside temperature drops, the pot soil begins to expand like water. As it expands with nowhere to go but up, the soil crushes the fleshy roots, eventually smashing them to a pulp.

The native Chinese *P. obconica* species, now available in Israel, is our favorite. Large clusters of flowers grow in a wide range of colors on tall stems above the plant's hairy leaves. Some types are even fragrant. These are excellent plants if your home is light and cool. Even though they can be placed in the garden in a sheltered spot, they are better grown protected from the elements.

P. obconica is a perennial, but usually grown as an annual. Besides the difficulty of getting them through an Israeli summer, they never flower as profusely in their second year as in their first. Here follow our general guidelines for successfully growing primroses in Israel.

Position and light.

Place primroses in part shade, in other words, in a part of your garden not receiving more than 3-4 hours of sunshine per day. If you plant them in full sun they will not last very long and the flowering time will be much shorter.

Watering.

Never let primroses go short of water. They are thirsty plants, especially during the flowering season.

Feeding.

Fertilize with plant food at half strength every ten days.

Care.

Springtime is the time to enjoy primulas. When the flowers die off, remove them. In summer, after the flowering season, if your plants are not in a shady place, it may be necessary to provide artificial shading.

Netting loosely draped over the plants, though unsightly, is very effective in getting them through the hot summer. Water them regularly twice a week, but don't drench the roots, since they are at rest during



Growing this cool-weather plant in Israel is a challenge for gardeners - but it brings colorful rewards.

(Joanna Kushnir)

ing the summer. At the end of August, let them have a little more light, eventually removing the netting altogether. Also, if it is very dry, increase the amount of water.

Propagation.

Now that you have managed to get your primroses through the summer months, September is a good time to divide them. When breaking up the clumps, make sure each portion has a few leaves and roots attached. It is possible to get anything from 2-8 new plants from one old plant in the first year.

Pests and diseases.

Primulas are usually untroubled. Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact BatSheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).



TIP OF THE WEEK

A word of warning - people with sensitive skin are advised to handle *Primula obconica* with gloves, because the leaves can cause skin irritation or a rash.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC

TENDERS

Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 9/156 for Computerized Office System - "Office 2"

Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices
The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. (hereafter "the Corporation") invites bids for the planning, construction, development, integration, training and implementation of a new computerized office system for the Israel Electric Corporation, in a two-stage process.

The system will be based on Microsoft Exchange / Outlook products.

Bids must be accompanied by the following documents as a necessary requirement for participating in the bid:

1. Certification that the bidder is an Israeli company or the active representative of a foreign company. Bidders who are active representatives must submit a declaration to that effect from the manufacturer, in addition to documents proving that they are an Israeli company.
2. Certification from Microsoft of being a "solution provider", with at least one year's experience on the day that their bid for Stage A is submitted.
3. Certification of compliance to ISO-9000 in the field of service and support.

In addition, bidders must comply with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).

Bids must also comply with the conditions stated in paragraph 0.18 in the management chapter.

A meeting for bidders will take place at the offices of the Israel Electric Corporation, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa (ground floor), on July 1, 1998, at 9 a.m. Attendance is obligatory for all bidders. Bidders who do not attend may not submit a bid. The Israel Electric Corporation is entitled to refuse entry to the meeting to bidders who have not purchased the tender documents.

The tender documents and further information may be obtained from the Information Systems and Telecommunications Division, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa (11th floor, room 1111), Tel. 04-888-7295, Sunday - Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., from June 4, 1998.

The tender documents are available on submission of a receipt for the sum of NIS 1,930 (inc. VAT), demonstrating payment into the Corporation's account at any branch of the Postal Bank. This payment is non-refundable. Payment slips may be obtained from the above address. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Corporation at the above address.

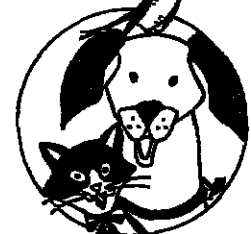
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The Corporation reserves the right to negotiate with various bidders at its sole discretion.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

תחומים על שירות סלולר

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

A Tel Aviv reader wants to know why the scriptures are so negative about dogs and why religious Jews tend to avoid having pets. Did the ancient Hebrews keep pets?

We know that when the Children of Israel left Egypt, God ordered the dogs to be silent, so as not to betray them. Dogs also appear in the paintings in the Beni Hassan tomb in Egypt.

To just what degree they were domesticated at that time is not known. But by the period of the Second Temple they were certainly a familiar animal around the home; the Mishna has specific regulations laid down as to what a dog owner's liability is if a dog damages another's property.

It is true that of the 20 or so references to dogs in the scriptures, most are derogatory. Dogs were not only ritually unclean animals but could also cause the contamination of an entire household by bringing some unclean thing into the home. This required ritual purification that was both tiresome and sometimes expensive, and therefore the dog was held in low regard.

It is certain that dogs were used for hunting. Rock carvings in the Sinai from the second century BCE clearly show ibex being hunted by a man and by two dogs, one clearly a Dog of Canaan and the other resembling a Sahag.

Our ancestors may well have used dogs to help hunt animals, since an animal, to be eaten, has to be ritually slaughtered. Therefore, unlike other nations, the Israelites could not go out and hunt with a spear, arrows or slingshots, but had to first either trap an animal or

hold it at bay with dogs so as to subdue and slaughter it.

They may also have used dogs for herding, but it is more likely that they used them as guards for their flocks, since nowhere in the Middle East did a true herding breed of dog develop.

Cats were also almost certainly known to our forefathers, even during the Egyptian exile. After all, the cat was first domesticated there. It is not mentioned in the Scriptures, however. It is quite

possible that because the cat had been deified by the Egyptians, it was deliberately ignored.

We don't know whether cats were kept as domestic animals in ancient Israel. Cats are first mentioned in the talmudic period and then only in passing. On the other hand, since the Bible is not a zoology textbook or a naturalist's guide to Israel, it may simply be an innocent omission.

There is little doubt that our ancestors did not keep animals as

pets, but only for utilitarian purposes. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the first laws protecting animal rights come from our own religious heritage.

Therefore, although the ancient Hebrews may have had a different basic attitude toward animals than we do, they were not indifferent or hostile to them.

Not all Orthodox Jews are averse to animals, and I know many religious families that have pets.

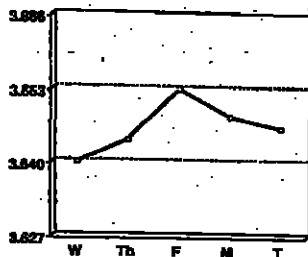
It is difficult, however, to provide for most pets during Passover week. There is also an injunction not to pray in a room where there is an animal.

I always thought this was so there could be no question that one might be venerating an animal, but one leading rabbi explained to me that it is forbidden for the same reason that one should not pray in the room with a small child - simply because it might pose a distraction.

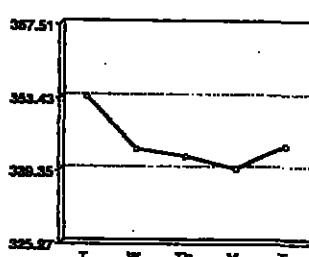
MARKETS

in brief

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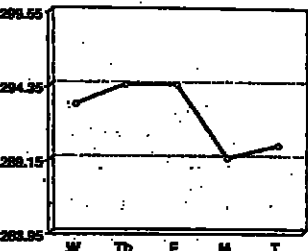


MAOF INDEX



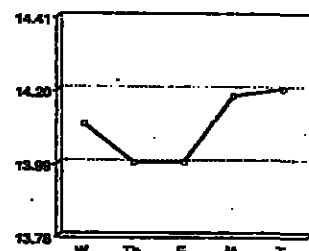
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\$ per ounce

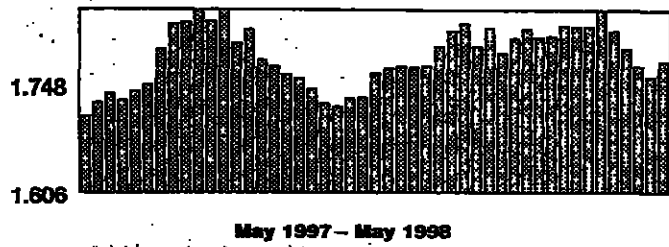


OIL

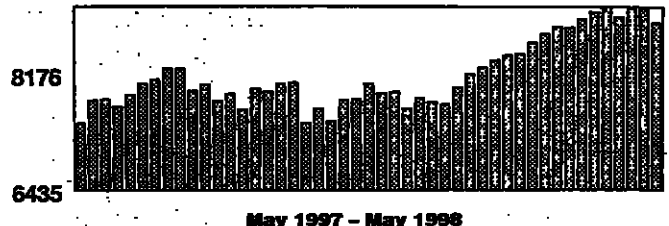
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



6% April increase in tourists flying here

The number of tourists flying into Israel in April increased 6.15 percent to 162,400 from the same month last year, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. April was the first month this year in which there was a rise in the number of visitors arriving at the country's airports. Since the start of the year, the figure has dropped to 482,700 from 537,900 during the same period last year. *David Harris*

Jan.-May, tax revenues up 0.8%

The government received NIS 47.4 billion in tax revenues in the first five months of the year, a 0.8 percent increase from the same time last year, the Treasury said yesterday. Since the start of the year there have been increases in imports of video players (24.3%), televisions (12.1%), refrigerators (9%) and dishwashers (0.1%), offset by decreases in imports of washing machines (-4.4%) and motor vehicles (-7.4%). *David Harris*

Electric Corp. opens in-house phone system

The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday announced the establishment of an in-house phone network. The company said the system will reduce its annual Bezeq bill by NIS 5.5 million. Some 11,000 extensions have been incorporated via 42 exchanges. *David Harris*

After one year on the job

Brudo resigns as ILA director

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel Lands Administration (ILA) director Bertie Brudo announced his resignation yesterday, just one year after being appointed by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

In a letter to Sharon, Brudo said it was "in light of circumstances that have arisen." In asking to leave his post by mid-June, Brudo told the minister that "in the last year I have done all in my power to move forward the reform in the area of land, to restructure the organization and to advance national interests that are linked to the administration."

Brudo added that he believes much has been attained in these spheres since the cabinet approved his appointment on May 30 last year.

Speaking in Tel Aviv yesterday, Sharon said he was sorry to see Brudo go. Some in the ILA said the two had not seen eye-to-eye over a series of issues. A similar claim was made when Sharon's former ministry director-general Giora Romm also quit last year.

It is not yet clear who will replace Brudo. A ministry official said Sharon is already beginning to turn his attention to the subject. "There were things he did achieve and others he failed to achieve," said the official. "The



Bertie Brudo

problem is how you cope with the administration and the entrenched

bureaucracy that goes with it. Look, sometimes you succeed and sometimes you fail."

It took Sharon about nine months to find a replacement for the previous incumbent Uzi Wexler.

Earlier last year, the government turned down the nomination of Yossi Antverg because of his involvement in the 1988 Likud accounts scandal.

Brudo, 48, came from Bank Discount, where he was director of the projects branch responsible for financing real estate and building projects.

During his tenure at the administration, Brudo launched a series of changes in the structure of the organization and its working meth-

ods. These included giving regional managers greater responsibility for land deals valued at up to NIS 2 million or up to a maximum of 10 dunams, fully computerizing the ILA, including its archives, which were still paper-based; and implementing a series of customer-service improvements, including opening a number of ILA offices around the country.

Meanwhile, Oil Refineries' managing director Moshe Farjoun also announced his resignation yesterday. Sources in the company say there had been ongoing differences of opinion between Farjoun and company chairman Ovadia Eli.

MKs approve 33% ICL sale on TASE

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the sale of the remaining government stake in Israel Chemicals, against the desires of the controlling Eisenbergs, according to sources close to the family. The government holds 33 percent of the company.

The Eisenbergs did have first right of refusal on the shares, "but only when sold in bundles," explained MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher).

The committee's decision included a rider, which stated that "the director-general of the Government Companies Authority may return to the committee if there are circumstances that prevent the sale on the bourse and she wishes to offer state shares in the company in a bundle(s) to an investor(s) from Israel and/or abroad by means of a private sale."

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday instructed Accountant General Shai Talmon and MI Holdings' managing director Meir Yaacobson to immediately begin work on selling up to 33% of shares in Israel Discount Bank by means of a private sale.

The government currently holds 60% of the bank. At a later stage, a small amount of shares will be sold at favorable rates to the workforce.

Zilberfarb: Gov't shares not being sold widely

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The government of Israel has failed to widely distribute shares to the public when privatizing state companies, according to a book to be published today that was cowritten by Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb.

Bar-Ilan University lecturers Shlomo Eckstein and Shimon Rozevich wrote *The Privatization of State Companies in Israel and the World* with Zilberfarb when he was still a professor at the university.

"The fundamental failure of the privatization process until now has been the absence of any real attempt to achieve a wide spread of shares," write the authors. Selling to as many people as possible via the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange "will also cause the development of the stock market. In many cases it became clear that government companies were floated at low prices," which should allow the public to benefit "and not a small group of investors."

Excluding the banks, the academics believe the state can raise NIS 2 billion in sales in the coming years. The four major monopolies will not be privatized this decade, they predict.



Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani shows National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon a model of one of the company's new trains.

Sharon: Haifa-Irbid train planned

By DAVID HARRIS

Jerusalem and Amman are "at an advanced stage of discussions" on a train link between Haifa and the northern Jordanian city of Irbid, a senior National Infrastructure Ministry official said yesterday.

Speaking in Tel Aviv, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said the line, which would carry freight between Irbid's industrial zone and Haifa's port, is on the agenda.

"Both sides are currently preparing details in order to interest [potential investing] companies," said the official. This is in addition to talks between Sharon and Jordanian Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin on a railroad between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Akaba, with a branch line taking chemicals to the port at Ashdod.

Sharon also spoke about the need for an express route from Gaza to the West Bank to allow Palestinians and their goods greater mobility between the territories.

"There are also contacts [with the Palestinians] to allow the use of our train lines to link the Gaza Strip with Judea and Samaria," said the official. "They always speak of connectivity, and one of the ways we can do this, particularly while there's no road, is by means of an express train. There are companies interested in this. This line, I would say, is only at the first stages."

This development is in line with Sharon's pronouncement last fall that he intends talking to the PA about train links.

The route would take freight and passengers from the Erez crossing point at Gaza, on to Kalkilya and Tulkarm, according to Sharon.

In October, the Palestinians revealed a

proposal for a \$156 million fully integrated rail system and seaport to be operational by 2000.

Trains would run from Gaza, along the Ashkelon-Haifa line, entering the West Bank at Kalkilya, and continuing to Tulkarm and Nablus, with a second line - from Afula, through Jenin, into Jordan - connecting with the Amman-Damascus track.

Sharon spoke yesterday at an official ceremony as Israel Railways took receipt of the first of 18 push-pull trains at a cost of \$40m. from the Spanish-based GEC Alsthom.

Ten of these will be for passenger services, with the remainder destined for freight use.

Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani said he expects within weeks to receive permission to spend an extra NIS 100m. this year. This would allow the purchase of additional rolling stock.

Report: NBA's Jordan pumps \$10b. into US economy

NEW YORK (AP) - Michael Jordan has had a \$10 billion impact on the US economy, according to an estimate by *Fortune* magazine.

From peddling sneakers, underwear and cologne, Jordan also has an influence on rising television ratings and gate receipts for basketball teams, increased sales of National Basketball Association (NBA) paraphernalia

and a lineup of sports videos and books.

The sports business is "a fundamentally different industry from the one he came into," the magazine quoted the NBA's chief marketer Rick Welts, as saying. "How you figure out what he benefited from based on the industry's growth and what he contributed to the growth of the industry is a question for the ages."

The stats for Jordan, who begins the 1998 NBA Finals tonight for perhaps the last time, cover a wide range.

Since 1990, when the Jordan-led Chicago Bulls took their first five championships, television ratings, ticket sales, television rights fees, NBA retail sales and player salaries have all risen.

RABIN



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LEAH RABIN

SHALOM HAVER

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LAST CHANGE

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Alaska	13.25	+0
Ampal	16	-0.0625

NYSE

Elscint	5.9375	-0.0625
First Israel Fund	13.9375	+0.1875
ISC Israel Economic Corp	21.6875	-0.125

Baym Advanced	161	+0
Domtek Ltd.	19.5	+1
Geo Interactive Media	176.5	+16.5

Alm	44 6875	-0.3125
AMR Inc	37 875	-0.0625

Abbott Labs	36.50	+0.625
Advanced Micro	18.75	-0.5
Aetna Life	78.875	+0.375

Algeria	52,128	1,125
Albania	10,000	1,000
Algeria (HF)	79,975	0.0025
Algeria	87,825	0.0025
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Algeria-Civ HZ	59,375	0.0025
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Algeria-Civ IH	59,375	0.0025
Algeria-Civ II	59,375	0.0025
Algeria-Civ IJ	59,375	0.0025
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Algeria-Civ LO	59,375	0.0025
Algeria-Civ LP	59,375	0.0025
Algeria-Civ LQ	59,375	0.0025
Algeria-Civ LR	59,375	0.0025

*In local currencies

TASE rises on Bank Hapoalim climb

Tel Aviv

Stocks rose for the first time in four days, with Bank Leumi Ltd. gaining after Lehman Brothers reiterated its "buy" recommendation, noting that first-quarter earnings met expectations.

Bank Leumi, Israel's second-largest bank, gained 1.9 percent to NIS 7.49. That helped the Maof Index of 25 largest companies to gain 1.35% to 343.93.

"Leumi's first-quarter net was NIS 205 million very close to our estimates, despite an unexpected early retirement provision" of NIS 42m., wrote Ian McEwen, a London analyst at Lehman, in a note to clients.

The bank said on Thursday that first-quarter earnings rose 19.8% before a one-time gain last year as it lowered provisions for bad loans and expanded lending and credit activity.

Bank Leumi's share price relative to its earnings "is attractive compared with European banks," said Hadar Oshrat, a trader at Ilanot Batucha, which has an outperform rating on the company.

Indices were led by Bank Hapoalim Ltd., Israel's largest bank, which gained 2.9% to NIS 11.41. Hapoalim was the most active issue, with NIS 29.4 million in trades.

Israel Discount Bank Ltd. rose 0.5% to NIS 4.39. The bank's chief executive Avraham Asheri resigned on Monday. The bank didn't give a reason, though analysts have said the resignation was

probably prompted by falling profit at the bank last year and in the first quarter.

Elbit Systems Ltd. rose 2.9% to NIS 50. The defense contractor was upgraded to "strong buy" from "buy" at Solid Financial Markets.

Europe

The beleaguered yen fought its way back from seven-year lows against the dollar at mid-session in Europe yesterday, boosted by speculation of intervention and supportive comments from a Japanese official.

But the fortunes of European equity markets were less encouraging, as continued concern over political and financial problems in Asia and an inconclusive overnight performance from the Dow soured sentiment towards shares.

"Equity markets are still looking feeble," said one London dealer. "There is a growing group of people thinking we will be inevitably hit by a deflationary wave."

London's blue chip FTSE-100 index pared earlier losses on expectations the Dow would be flat at the session's start, and the FTSE closed slightly up at 5842.3.

Paris and Frankfurt were ahead after a holiday weekend. France's CAC-40 rose 0.6 percent, bolstered by strength in the dollar and bond prices, while Frankfurt's Xetra DAX gained 0.1%.

STOCKS



Maof 343.93 +1.35%
Dow Jones 8891 +0.35%
FTSE 5842.3 +0.08%
NIKKEI 15554.45 +1.52%

Bond markets failed to make further progress after yields dipped to historic lows on flight-to-quality buying.

German Bund futures on the German futures exchange started yesterday's trade at the all-time high set on the London exchange on Monday, when the German market was closed, but then eased back slightly.

UK gilts succumbed to profit-taking as the 10-year yield dropped to a 30-year low.

Asia

Japanese stocks gained yesterday for the first time in three days as pension funds bought companies with consistent earnings and recent declines in price, such as East Japan Railway Co.

"With Asian economic uncer-

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology stocks recovered partially from Monday's bruising sell-off, but the broad market yesterday again failed to hold most of their gains as mounting worries about company profits prevailed.

The Dow Jones Industrial average fell 31.13 points — or 0.35 percent — to 8,891.24 after sliding from an early 54-point gain to a 50-point loss.

Broad-market indicators were mixed, with the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index wiping out about half of Monday's 32-point plunge.

The market has repeatedly failed to build any momentum over the past month amid growing doubts about whether this year's jump in stock prices will prove unrealistic with the economic crisis in Asia eating away at company profits.

Several of the Nasdaq technology bellwethers repaired a chunk of Monday's heavy damage, which came amid the renewed concern about the group's considerable exposure to Asia and news of a delay in a key Intel computer chip.

Analysts said it wasn't surprising to see technology shares bounce following such a steep tumble, but few saw today's rally as a turning point for the beleaguered group.

Even with yesterday's gain, the Nasdaq composite sits more than 150 points, or 8% below the closing record of 1,917.61 set on April 22.

Pound falls against mark as UK borrowing slows

The British pound fell against the deutsche mark as a report showed consumer borrowing slowed in April, reinforcing expectations the central bank won't raise the benchmark UK lending rate at its meeting this week.

"The economic data has been softer all around and the market is feeling more relaxed than there are no more rate rises coming," said Philippa Malmgren, a currency strategist at Bankers Trust. "That means sterling comes off a bit more."

Sterling is down 6 percent since reaching a nine-year high March 31. It was at \$1.6374 from \$1.6376.

Net lending to UK consumers rose £866 million in April, after a

£1.4 billion surge in March, according to Bank of England figures. The report suggested consumers are borrowing less and that consumer demand won't expand fast enough to accelerate inflation.

Economists surveyed were expecting consumer credit rose £900m. "The Bank of England will hold rates where they are," said Rob Newman, a currency trader at Bank of Nova Scotia. That will keep the pound from gaining, he said.

Of 20 economists polled, all but one expect the central bank will leave the benchmark lending rate unchanged at 7.25% "when" it announces its decision tomorrow. Those expectations were rein-

forced this week after a report showed UK manufacturing shrank in May.

An index of manufacturing activity from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and

Supply fell to 49.3 in May from 49.5 in April, its second straight decline, as export orders declined. A slowing economy lessens the need for the central bank to raise rates to stave off inflation.

Sterling could get a boost in coming weeks from speculation that the Bank of England may raise rates, or "tighten" credit conditions, by year's end.

"There's a slim risk of a tightening," said Keith Kelsall, a global bond fund manager at Fidelity Trust International Ltd. in London, which oversees \$6b. "We still have a very strong economy. Inflation is still above (the government's) target."

UK retail prices excluding mortgage payments, the government's preferred measure of annual inflation, rose 3.0% in April. That's the third straight month inflation has been faster than the government's 2.5% target ceiling.

Last week, the bank's chief economist, Mervyn King, said inflation could accelerate if the pound's recent weakness continues. A falling pound cuts the cost of exports and can fuel inflation.

Eight of the economists polled on their rate expectations see rates staying at 7.25% till year's end, while seven expect a cut to 7.00%. Still, four see an increase to 7.50%, and one sees rates peaking at 7.75% by the end of 1998.

The Bank of England raised its benchmark interest rate in five quarter-point steps last year. The latest increase came in November. (Bloomberg)

Coffee prices slump on fear of world glut

US bonds fell for the first time in four days as traders braced for up to \$15 billion of corporate and agency debt sales this week, and as the dollar declined against the yen.

"Corporate treasurers are taking advantage of recent lower rates and selling bonds," said Tony Crescenzi, chief strategist at Miller Tabak Hirsch & Co. Company sales offer investors a higher-yielding alternative to Treasury securities.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 11/32, or \$3.44 per \$1000 bond, to 104/32. Its yield rose 2 basis points to 5.80 percent, after falling yesterday to its lowest since January 15. The

two-year note's yield rose 3 basis points to 5.53%.

Tyco International Inc., Westpoint Stevens Inc., and other companies are expected to sell about \$11 billion in bonds this week, while Fannie Mae, the biggest provider of home mortgage funds in the US, is selling up to \$4 billion of seven-year global notes. The company began a program of "jumbo" note sales in January.

Yields on 10-year Treasury notes, a benchmark for company debt sales, fell 9 basis points in the past two weeks to 5.56%. Government notes and bonds are now trading near the lowest in about 2 months.

Energy

Crude oil fell ahead of the stockpile tally from the American Petroleum Institute, which was expected to show US crude oil stockpiles still languishing close

to a five-year high. Oil stockpiles in the US are looked at as a gauge of demand in the world's largest energy-consuming nation, particularly after a global supply glut pushed prices down 13 percent so far this year.

Analysts say that crop could be as large as 38 million 60-kilo bags, Brazil's largest coffee harvest since 1987-88. While the Brazilian government has said it

will make \$900 million available to farmers to encourage them not to flood the market, most analysts still expect them to sell.

Coffee for July delivery fell \$31 to \$1,730 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Cocoa fell on expectations that heavy rainfall in the Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, will boost the development of the 1998-99 crop. Cocoa-growing regions of Ivory Coast received above-normal rainfall during April and May, easing concern that cocoa crops would be damaged by drought earlier this year. More rainfall and thundershowers are forecast for this week, according to Massachusetts-based Weather Services Corp. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall; traders brace for \$15b. new debt

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Shoshim Pharm., 42 Agripas, 824-6484; Basmal, Salah E-Din, 627-2315; Shustat, Shustat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldeha, Herods Gate, 626-0558.

Tel Aviv: Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975; Tel Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730; Tel Aviv, 546-2040, 7th midright; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730; Superpharm London, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730.

Ramat Gan: Kfar Savar, Hasharon, 55 Ramat Gan, 555-6781; Netanya: Magen, 13 Weizman Blvd., 822-2985.

Haifa: Kfar Ziv, 1 Shalom Aleichem, 823-5054. Krayot area: Kupat Holim Chikl Zevulun, 102 Derech Aldo, Krayot.

Bat 878-7818.
Beit Merzliya: New Pharm. Beit Merzliya, 8 Maadit (near Shalom Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm. Lev Ha'Em, 557-0488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (internal, ENT, pediatrics); Hadassah M. Scopus (orthopedics, obstetrics).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:
Ashdod 851533 Kfar Sava 982222

weaker dollar, which fell against the yen amid concern finance officials at the world's Group of Seven major industrial nations meeting next week will discuss how to support the yen. The dollar fell to 138.77 yen from 139.50 yen. Monday it reached 139.92 yen, the highest since July 4, 1991.

"It's a big dollar trade right now" in the bond market, said Patrick Dimick, bond strategist at UBS Securities Inc.

Some investors declined to place bets before economic reports in coming days, including May's employment figures on Friday, that may suggest the economy is still strong enough to spur infla-

tion in coming months. While weaker-than-expected manufacturing reports in recent days buoyed speculation the economy is slowing, that could be offset by booming jobs growth. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3% in April, the lowest in almost 30 years.

The government said new home sales jumped to a record in April, rising 5.2% to 888,000 units at an annual rate.

Analysts surveyed before the results expected a smaller gain. The report may "have implications for bonds because it's a new record," said Dan Seto, an economist at Nikko Securities International Inc. (Bloomberg)

Brent crude oil for July delivery fell 5 cents to \$14.18 a barrel on the London International Petroleum Exchange.

Others

Coffee slumped on expectations that a surge in Brazilian exports from the country's largest crop in 11 years will lead to a glut of coffee in the coming weeks. Brazil, the world's largest coffee grower, is expected to start shipping coffee from its 1998-99 harvest in the coming weeks.

Analysts say that crop could be as large as 38 million 60-kilo bags, Brazil's largest coffee harvest since 1987-88. While the Brazilian government has said it

will make \$900 million available to farmers to encourage them not to flood the market, most analysts still expect them to sell.

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LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv 343.93	+2.12%
Tungar 41.25	-0.02%
Tempo 18.00	+0.25
Yen 138.77	-1.00%
Yen 139.92	+0.37%
Yen 139.25	-1.18%
Yen 139.50	-0.75
Yen 139.00	+0.25
Yen 138.25	-0.88%
Yen 137.75	-1.02%
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Gazza ouster the talk of Britain

POOR Graeme Hick. On the day that the Worcestershire and former England batsman became just the 24th player in the history of the game to reach the fabulous landmark of 100 first-class hundreds, the news from Spain was breaking.

In true soap opera style which accompanies every football story emanating from the UK these days, coach Glenn Hoddle met with Paul Gascoigne in his hotel room and informed the player he was surplus to requirements for the World Cup in France.

Exit Gazza with a few choice words towards his manager and a few hours later he fell into the loving arms of his ex-wife Cheryl with a scum of reporters and cameramen outside waiting for quick comment or photo.

Most football pundits have praised Hoddle's "bravery" pointing to the fact that Gascoigne was not match-fit and had enjoyed "one kebab too many" in recent weeks.

David Lacey of *The Guardian* said that Hoddle had "made a choice both brave and logical." Michael Hart in the *London Evening Standard* said that Hoddle had come of age as an international manager.

And James Brown, editor of the laddish *Q* magazine said that the problem with Gascoigne was that he "did not know when to stop being a p*** artist." Even Sports Minister Tony Banks added his governmental seal of approval from the dispatch box in the House of Commons.

But there have also been voices of dissent. *Times* columnist Brian Glanville was particularly scathing about the way Hoddle had discarded the player. "It was callous and insensitive, Gascoigne was treated like a Pavlovian dog," he told Channel 4 news on Monday.

Perhaps the most interesting person to be interviewed on the subject was student journalist James Eisen who made a bit of a name for him-

self by taking the famous photo of Gazza tucking into that kebab a few weeks ago. "I saw an opportunity and went for it," Eisen said, rather like Gascoigne when in full flight on goal.

But the most poignant comment came from *The Star's* Lee Clayton who, in backing Hoddle's decision wrote: "There wasn't a sadder sight in football than watching an unfit Gascoigne against Belgium on Friday. Even the ref overlooked him." According to Jimmy Greaves, himself discarded by Sir Alf Ramsey in favor of Geoff Hurst during the 1966 finals, Gascoigne will find it very difficult to pick himself up after this disappointment.

Greaves never got over the setback and suffered in silence with drink, and as the tabloids have made very clear, Gascoigne is quite prone to a drink or two.

THERE is no doubt that 20 years ago, Hick's feat would have made banner headline news, as it did when Geoffrey Boycott achieved his 100th hundred against Australia in the Headingley Test of 1977. But these days, you have to search long and hard to find non-football related stuff on the sports pages.

Hick's ability has never been in question. As a raw Zimbabwean youngster emerging into the county circuit here 15 years ago, he savaged bowling attacks at will. But after qualifying to play for England, he never managed to repeat his county form at Test level, and played what looks like the last of his Tests two years ago.

AFTER that brief interlude away from football, it's back to the busi-

ness of World Cup crystal-ball gazing. There is one other representative of the UK in the shape of Scotland who will be aiming to reach their first quarter finals ever in the World Cup in this their ninth finals.

In 1978, manager Ally MacLeod put tremors through the other teams' camps by announcing before the tournament that his team would come back with the trophy. Well, they certainly came back to headlines - of the wrong sort, with Willie Johnston sent home in disgrace after failing a drugs test and the team managing a less than creditable draw with Iran.

In 1982, 86 and 90 it was a similar story, the country's thousands of loyal fans being let down by poor performances. But this time, you just never know. The very fact that Scotland are priced at the embarrassing 125-1 by the bookies to win the tournament suggests they may be able to conjure up something a bit special. And with the whole world watching their opener with Brazil next Wednesday, a draw will be seen as tantamount to winning the trophy for Craig Brown's team.

Brown is a shrewd manager, quiet, extremely well spoken and intelligent, and his approach has been very low key.

Creditable performances in the US prior to the finals has been built by Brown around his first choice eleven. Even a minor hiccup when Rangers' goalkeeper Andy Goram mysteriously walked out on the squad amid allegations about his private life have been quickly forgotten. With Norway and Morocco making up Scotland's group, Brown has a good chance of making it to the next stage.

FINALLY to a tale of real sporting

pross which has no sensation, no drugs, drinking, wild nights on the town - which is why it is actually newsworthy. Most cricket fans will have heard of Jimmy Adams, the West Indies all-rounder, but few will know where the player is currently turning out. The 30-year old Jamaican, with over 2,000 Test runs, average 51.31, highest score 208, is playing a season for Sunbury in the Middlesex League.

Overseas players are not new to English non-first class cricket leagues, the Lancashire and Yorkshire leagues have been employing stars from abroad for years. But the difference is money - the above leagues, with sizeable crowds and sponsors, are able to pay salaries often compatible with the counties.

Adams, on the other hand, has accepted a £7,500 wage for the summer which averages out at about £500 per week.

For this modest sum, he plays in league and cup games, and is in charge of coaching players who during the week are getting on with their careers in professions light years away from cricket.

So what makes a player like Adams take on such a challenge?

"I'm not so much interested in maximizing my finances. I tend to think long term and I don't think it would be right if I committed myself to first-class cricket knowing I'd be going through the motions within a month. My ambition is not to be a millionaire," Adams said last week.

And that's the state of sport in England these days. Pages upon pages of Gazza, with his kebabs and pills of beer, phone-ins and opinion polls about whether he should have been dropped, a minister at the dispatch box. And then comes Graham Hick in the pecking order, and then Adams who may be on a paltry £15 per hour, but if he had any footballing talent, he should be the first on any manager's team sheet.

Liverpool eye Heynckes, Real to name replacement

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid said yesterday they would name soon a replacement for coach Jupp Heynckes.

The departing German's Spanish agent meanwhile told reporters that two English clubs had made preliminary enquiries about the European Cup winning coach, one of them Liverpool.

"In a few days we'll have a new coach," Real president Lorenzo Sanz said.

Former Real player Jose Antonio Camacho, who coached Espanyol last season, is a favorite to get the job. Real Madrid general director Jose Martinez Piri said that he had had discussions with Camacho on Monday.

Heynckes visited the Santiago Bernabeu stadium yesterday for the last time in his present position - to pick up his redundancy cheque.

Spanish newspapers have said that Heynckes has been paid 100 million pesetas (\$660,000) as compensation for the final year of his contract and another 75 million pesetas as a bonus for winning the European Cup.

Ramat Gan bowlers win after dramatic comeback

By NORMAN SPIRO

The Ramat Gan foursome of Max Wegensberg, Herbert Loyal, Kochi Yehzekel and Patricia Slatiner made a dramatic comeback to win the annual Shavruv lawn bowls tournament at the Ra'anana club on Friday.

In the final against George Kaminsky, Micha Farkash, Tzila Gavish and Moshe Ayoun, the Ramat Gan side started off foundering by with self-damaging drives to

SPORTS

in brief

Caesarea Golf

The Caesarea Golf Club held a better ball stableford event this weekend with Malca and Mati Geri taking first place with 44 points, eight better than par.

One point behind were Gideon Golan and Kobi Rogovin while Yakov Deutch and Uzi Hacham were third with 42.

Last weekend the club hosted 120 players in the 15th consecutive Or Akiva Cup. The game was a stableford one best score event with players limited to 80% of their normal handicap.

The eventual winners were Koren Kobi, Joseph German, Rogovin and Hacham with a 12 under par 48 stableford points. Also on 48 and with an equal back nine but a weaker score on the last six holes of the back nine were Zvi Shahar, Sara Swirsky, Shlomo Fermin and Michael Bardugo. Heather Chait

Junior judokas fare well in England

An Israeli junior team collected eight medals, including two golds, at the British judo junior open international championships held in Wilkesdon, London, last week.

Winning golds were Eyal Yehiel (also cited as the best player of the tournament) and Jonathan Wolf in the 38- and 34-kg class respectively. Itai Mazar (50kg) won a silver medal with bronze medals going to Oren Dubin (42kg), Ran Itai (60kg), Adi Freiberg (78kg), Shimon Assor (55kg) and 58% Yifrah Gutman (90kg).

Israel placed fourth overall among teams from the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. The team included 25 judokas between the ages of 11-18. Heather Chait

find themselves 13-0 down after the fourth end and 16-4 down after the seventh end. But with good sense and switching to a drawing game, the foursome collected three shots at the next end which set the pattern for an outstanding reversal of fortunes as Kaminsky's side were shut down, being denied a single additional shot for the remaining nine heads. As all four Ramat Gan players increased their accuracy, they ended the drama with a 25-16 win.

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SAAB 900 S, 1995 2.3 liters, manual, 12,000 km., fully loaded, 1st owner, like new, mint condition, bargain price. Tel. 02-652-3735, 050-240-577

UNRESTRICTED

CHEVROLET LUMINA, 1996, excellent condition, just 29,000 km., like new, white. Tel. 02-679-6430, 052-558-340 (NIS). (792640)

HONDA SHUTTLE ES, 1997, all extras, 8,000 km., like new, grey, list price. Tel. 02-561-3365. (793313)

DAIHATSU CHARADE, 1994, original owner, air-conditioning, automatic, new motor, new transmission, passed test NIS 10,000 or best offer. Tel. 02-561-8515 (Shirley). (793278)

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CRITICS' CHOICE

ISRAEL FESTIVAL

French organist Marie-Claire Alain plays contemporary French music and music by Bach tonight (8) at the Dormition Abbey. **Michael Ajzenstadt** Pilobolus was the start of the dance-genre that combines modern dance with the athleticism of gymnasts. They've been here a few times and now they're at Sherover with a program that includes a solo from the 1980 *The Empty Suits* and last year's *Solo*. Tonight at 9 p.m., tomorrow at 5 and 9 p.m.

Helen Kaye The Right Size are English comedians Hamish MacColl and Sean Foley performing their comedy *Do You Come Here Often?* about a couple of strangers locked in a public bathroom for 25 years. Improbable? Of course!!! At Rebecca Crown tonight and tomorrow at 9 p.m. and Friday at 3 p.m.

Across town at the International Convention Center the high-voltage Sao Paulo Ballet of Brazil performs *De Repente* and *Z. Tonight and tomorrow at 9 p.m.*

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **BOOGIE NIGHTS** - Paul Thomas Anderson's picture, about the southern California porn industry in the late '70s and early '80s, is a live-wire piece of moviemaking - funny, searching and often quite sad. The film has, too, its creator's ambition and precocity to recommend it at age 26, with just one other movie (*Hard Eight*) to his credit. Anderson has a fuller and more nuanced vision of how to spin a rich web of characters, create convincing period atmosphere and tell a story than many directors twice his age. There is, to be sure, something inherently ironic about treating the seamy, small-time world of flesh-film production as epic, but Anderson is careful not to exploit his sensational material. He neither moralizes nor glamorizes. Instead, he brings the wits of a clever anthropologist to bear on his characters' coke-snorting, dumb talk and casual sex. The movie falls off a bit in the second half but still marks a dynamic start to Anderson's career. With Burt Reynolds, Julianne Moore, Mark Wahlberg and a large, talented supporting cast. (Children under 18 not admitted: ID will be checked.)



English comedians Hamish MacColl and Sean Foley star in *'Do You Come Here Often?'* as part of the Israel Festival.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Japanese maestro Ritsuyuki Numajiri leads the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in a French program comprising Ravel's *Ma mere l'Oye*, Saint-Saens's *Danse macabre*, Debussy's *Nocturnes* (with the Hemiola Female Choir) and Chabrier's *Espana*.

Mezzo-soprano Zehava Gal joins to sing Ravel's *Scheherazade*. Tonight and tomorrow at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30) and Saturday at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim (9).

Mendi Rodan leads the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion in Mendelssohn's Second Symphony with the New Israeli Opera chorus and soloists soprano Marina Levit and Larisa Tetuev and tenor Felix Livshitz. The program also features Jan Radzyski's symphony *David*, and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with 12-year-old pianist Boris Gilburg as soloist. Tonight (8:30) and Saturday (9) at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center and Monday (8:30) in Kfar Sava.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 English
9:00 Science
9:25 English
9:40 Mathematics
9:55 Geography
10:00 Programs for the young
11:00 Science
11:40 Environmental Studies
12:10 Scientific Literature
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:30 Animation

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 She and Lily
15:35 X Men
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:58 News Evening
17:34 Culture
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Matters
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News
18:31 Local Pop
18:53 Filmed in the Street
20:00 News
20:05 Conference Call
21:20 Running Scared (1996) - Two Chicago lawmen decide there's just one more homicide to bag before they hang up their shields. When things get sticky, the cops get itchy.

Florida. With Jimmy Smits, Billy Crystal and Gregory Hines
22:05 Grace Under Fire
22:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:45 Coffee with Tel-Ad
6:50 The Third Time
6:55 Thirty Something
10:50 Home of the Brave
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 Amazing Stories
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Junior News
14:30 Home and Away
14:50 Meeting Point
15:10 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Sport with Jewariv
17:30 Five TV
18:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
18:30 Bel Air
18:45 Ramat Aviv
20:30 Ramat Aviv
21:15 Hatzufim
21:40 The Young and the Restless
22:50 The X-Files
23:45 Homicide
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide - cont.

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an eight-year-old is sent during the 1930s to spend Christmas with his father, whom he barely knows. The Rising Sun (1933) - a young man returns to Japan from studies in the USA in the 1930s and is encouraged by his father to join the Japanese imperialist war effort against China. With Tom Hest and J. Carol Nalsh. 14:30 Seating Stars: Joe Foster. 15:00 Jack Reed, Back of Honor (1995) - a policeman investigating a murder is taken off the case and begins his own investigation. 17:15 The Yearling (1994) - remake of the classic about a young boy's love for a farm that his father has to kill. 18:00 Soap (Hebrew, 1997) - drama by Ze'ev Revach about a shell-shocked veteran who opens a roadside cafe. 20:25 Seating Stars: Chris O'Donnell and Alec Baldwin. 21:10 Nigra. 22:00 The Hunted (1996) - a businessman witnesses a murder in Japan and is hunted by a gang of masked ninjas. With Christopher Lambert and John Lone. 23:50 Conduction. Critical (1992) - a medical team races to find the source of a lethal virus. 1:20 It's Alive III: Island of the Alive (1987) - another murder-murderer babies him with Michael Moriarty and Karen Black. 2:55 No Exit (1995, 89 mins.) - became an expert participant in a TV game in which only one contestant leaves alive. With Jeff Winick.

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:30 From Day To Day
16:50 Weeman of the Generations
17:00 Arabic News
17:10 Telecast
20:00 News
20:45 Scent of Mint
21:15 News Room
21:40 Hollywood Love
22:30 Entertainment Now

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Mathematics
16:30 English 9
17:30 Dear Brother
18:00 Pique-Nique
18:30 Cooking with Caprice

15:30 Oriental Studies
15:35 V-A-V
20:00 News Evening
20:30 Tastes
21:40 The 20th Century
22:00 Business Communications
22:15 Family Ties
22:30 Upstairs Downstairs

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Seating Stars: Celebrities Cook
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:40 The Heart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Bewitched
14:30 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Other Half
18:00 Trivia King (rpt)
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210 (rpt)
20:05 Melrose Place
21:10 Profile
22:00 Mad About You
22:30 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Law and Order
00:30 Babylon 5
1:20 Love Boat

JORDAN TV (31)

16:00 Holy Koran
18:10 Mr. Bogus
18:30 Arsen Lupin

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Truman Capote's One Christmas (1995) - 22:15 The Killing Fields

JERUSA

CINEMATHEQUE Branded Off 5 - Life Less Ordinary 7:15 - Live Flesh 9:30 - Anna Goldstein The Last Witch 9:30 - GIL Jerusalem Mail (Maha)

678448 Mercury Rising-Deep Impact 4:45, 7:15, 10 - The Boxer 4:45, 7:15, 10 - The Man in the Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 - Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 - JERUSALEM THEATER On tonight in Chanson 9:30 - Wild Man Blues 7 RAV CHEN 1-7 - 6782789 Credit Card Romance - 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19

Ha'oman St. Tapit As Good As It Gets 9:30, 7:15, 10 - The Wedding Singer 5, 7:30, 9:45 - In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Titanic 5, 7:30, 9:45 - She's So Lovely 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Boogie Nights 4, 7, 9:45 - Good Will Hunting 5, 7:30, 9:45 - GIL = 5700886 Live Flesh-Scream 2 4:45, 7:15, 10 - SMADAR = 5618168 Sweet Harvester 8, 10 - TEL AVIV DIZENGOFF On tonight in chansson-Wild Man Blues 7 RAV CHEN 1-7 - 6782789 Credit Card Romance - 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19

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Late Swedish goal sinks Italy

GOTHENBURG (Reuters) — Italy's World Cup preparations suffered a setback when they lost 1-0 in a warm-up match against Sweden last night.

But there was good news for Cesare Maldini's men when it was confirmed that key Juventus forward Alessandro Del Piero, who has been troubled by a groin injury, will take his place in Italy's 22 for France '98.

"Alessandro Del Piero is among the 22, since our medical experts have told us he has a good chance of recovering before the tournament (begins)," Maldini said.

Bologna striker Kenneth Andersson was Sweden's match-winner with a headed goal in the 90th minute.

The game only really came alive in the last quarter, when a sluggish Italy found themselves under increasing pressure from the Swedes, who finished third at the last World Cup but failed to qualify for France.

Italy controlled the midfield in the first half, but struggled to create many clearcut chances.

Andersson's Bologna team mate Roberto Baggio, starting his first game for Italy since November 1994, was at the heart of most of Italy's best moves.

It was a different story in the second half as the Swedes took control and almost scored on several occasions before Andersson's decisive late header.



INCONSOLEABLE — A tearful Romario is unable to contain his emotions at a press conference yesterday. (AP)

Romario out of World Cup

By BRIAN HOMEWOOD

LESGIGNY, France (Reuters) — Brazil axed injured striker Romario from their World Cup squad yesterday and the temperamental player broke down and wept as he faced the massed ranks of the Brazilian media.

Romario's place was taken by defensive midfielder Emerson Ferreira of Bayer Leverkusen in a move that caused widespread amazement.

Romario was Brazil's hero when they won the 1994 World Cup, scoring five goals, and had dreamt that his partnership with Ronaldo would help him to a repeat performance in France.

Instead, a nagging calf muscle injury has forced the 32-year-old striker out of what would surely have been his last World Cup.

Romario, who on Sunday had said he would be fit to face Scotland in the opening match of the finals on June 10, stopped twice and covered his face as he described how upset he was.

"This is very sad for me, a big disappointment," he said.

"Twenty-four hours ago, I was talking about the game on June 10 but things haven't worked

out like that." "This is a very difficult moment in my life. From now on, I will start to give value to other things," he said, before burying his face in his hands.

"I just want to thank the national team for having given me the chance to become what I am. This will not be a goodbye on my part. My relationship with the national team has not finished."

At this point, Romario, who missed out on much of the 1990 World Cup because he was recovering from a broken leg, broke down for a third time and was led away to a standing ovation.

Romario, who spoke on his own, had been preceded by coach Mario Zagallo, team doctor Lidio Toledo and assistant coach Zico, who explained the decision to drop him.

Toledo said that a scan taken on Monday showed that Romario still had an injury to his right calf muscle. "This type of injury can take 10 or 15 days or even a month to get better," he said.

Zagallo said Romario had been given longer to prove his fitness than other players would have been because of his special status.

"This was a special case because of his status

and his importance to the team," Zagallo said. "We waited until the last possible moment. We gave him our full backing. We did the best we could. It wasn't us who dropped Romario. It was the scan."

"This is sad, it is part of life, it is part of our reality. You have to make decisions and we have made one."

Romario's injury worries began in early May when he limped out of a domestic game with his club Flamengo after pulling a thigh muscle.

He appeared to have recovered from that but when Brazil began their World Cup training, he complained of a new injury to his calf muscle.

Toledo refused to discuss suggestions that Romario sustained the injury playing foot-volleyball on a Rio de Janeiro beach during a day off. "I don't know how he got the injury. He said the pain appeared suddenly," he said.

The doctor said Romario had been progressing well until feeling more pain again on Saturday. Zagallo said that Emerson was chosen because he already had five other players capable of playing in attack.

Emerson has played in a few friendlies for his country but never in a major tournament.

Jazz are rested and ready for the champs



SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Well rested and ready, the Jazz finally went through a practice on Monday knowing their opponent will be in the NBA Finals, which start tonight.

Now the Jazz realize that if there was ever a time they were poised to dethrone the Chicago Bulls, it is this year.

While the Bulls were sweating through a seven-game Eastern Conference finals series with Indiana, the Jazz were resting, waiting, waiting and waiting.

Now they've got a weary Chicago team coming into a series where Utah, not the Bulls, has the home-court advantage in one of the loudest buildings in the NBA.

"In the back of all our minds, it's got to be — this is the year," Utah's Greg Foster said. "We've played great. We put ourselves in a position that we always wanted to be in. So there's no excuses. If we go out there and blow it, we blow it."

And the finals are no mystery to the Jazz this time. A year ago, Utah was in uncharted territory against Chicago, but still played the Bulls tough before losing in six games.

This year, the Jazz say, they know what to expect. "We know that every ball counts for something — every loose ball, every rebound," Antoine Carr said. "You've got to get all the little things done. If

you get all the little things done, everything else will take care of itself."

But don't try to convince the Jazz that they are the favorites. Not against the Bulls, not against Michael Jordan.

"They're the championship team," coach Jerry Sloan said. "They're the guys who know how to win, and have won, championship games. Until you beat them, they're still the champions."

Karl Malone said he heard Chicago's Bud Buechler say the Bulls were underdogs. "Yeah, right," Malone said. "Maybe if we were a younger team, they would have gotten us on that, but we're not going to listen to it."

Foster said he's trying not to notice how many people are picking Utah to end the Jordan dynasty. "That just puts unneeded pressure on us," Foster said. "If we win, it's 'Oh man, what happened to the Bulls?' I still think we're the rabbit going after the hunter, as Charles Barkley would say."

Last year's loss to the Bulls is no added motivation, Jeff Hornacek said. "We're not the type of team that worries about revenge," he said. "As Jerry would say, they're playing in the past. Our goal is to try to win the championship this year and really forget about last year."

By the time Game 1 tips off tonight, the Jazz will have been idle for 10 days since they completed their four-game sweep of the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference finals. It's the second-longest layoff in NBA history. Only the Lakers' 12-day respite between the conference finals and NBA Finals in 1982 was longer.

Hingis eclipses Venus in Paris

Moya ousts men's favorite Rios

PARIS (AP) — Playing like the champion she is, Martina Hingis ousted Venus Williams from the French Open yesterday, ending the American teenager's run in Paris.

But there will be two Americans in the semifinals. Monica Seles, playing her first tournament since the death of her father, and Lindsay Davenport both advanced with three-set wins.

And Pete Sampras, thousands of miles away, can rest easy: Marcelo Rios lost a chance to take the world's No. 1 ranking when Carlos Moya defeated him in four sets.

Rios, the No. 3 seed, had been a favorite to take the title after the early exits of Sampras and No. 2 Petr Korda.

"He played a great match," Rios said of Moya. "I don't think I played that great today." Asked about the No. 1 ranking, he replied: "I wasn't thinking about it."

Williams, who powered her way through the first four rounds, met her match in the world's No. 1 player and lost 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

"I didn't play as well as I should have," Williams said.

"I made too many errors. These things, I assure you, will be corrected."

Hingis last year won every Grand Slam event except the French Open. Now she is two victories from capturing the lone major to elude her.

"She's raising her game," Williams said. "Everyone else has to raise theirs, too."

Seles looked like her old winning self during her victory over Jana Novotna, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Even the grunts were back.

Seles pounded her fist in the air in triumph after breaking Novotna in the final game.

"I think about my dad every day," she said. "But for me it's a tennis match, it's a tennis tournament. I'm doing something that I love to do."

Karolj Seles died of cancer May 14. Defending champion Iva Majoli went down to No. 2 seed Lindsay Davenport, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3. Davenport joked that she might be the most overlooked semifinalist.

"If I was a betting person or a journalist, I would overlook myself also," she said. "I don't have a tag. I'm just an ordinary girl playing tennis and having success. That's a boring story."

Moya, a talented Spaniard, was at the top of his all-court game in his 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Rios. With Moya serving, the Chilean saved three match points in the final game, including a lucky net cord.



RIOS'S MATCH — Spain's Carlos Moya in action against Marcelo Rios of Chile yesterday. (AP)

That delighted the vocal Chilean fans, who waved a big flag whenever he won a point.

But Moya fired an ace to set up the fourth match point, and Rios netted his final shot.

In a showdown billed worthy of a final, Hingis used her deft touch and court sense to wear down Williams. She almost always seemed in control, never looking off-balance or rushed.

Hingis raced to a 3-0 lead, but Williams broke in the fifth game for 3-2 as the Swiss star twice double-faulted. Hingis then broke right back for 4-2, and held on to win the set. In the second set, Williams had a

chance to break Hingis for 2-0, racking up three break points. But Hingis won five straight points to take the game.

In the crucial game of the set, Hingis broke Williams for 4-3 — again on two double faults, this time by Williams.

Also reaching the semifinals was No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. The two-time champion from Spain lost a tiebreak in the second set but recovered to beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-0.

But another former champion, Thomas Muster, continued a disappointing year with a quarterfinal loss to No. 15 Felix Mantilla of Spain, 6-

4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. The Austrian's ranking has dropped this past year from ninth to 22nd.

Leading to the headline match, Hingis wasn't ready to call Williams a true rival.

"Everybody else is trying to make rivalries against me," she said. "Venus, she won Key Biscayne, but that's not a Grand Slam. ... I'm No. 1. I've won four Grand Slams. I have the self-confidence."

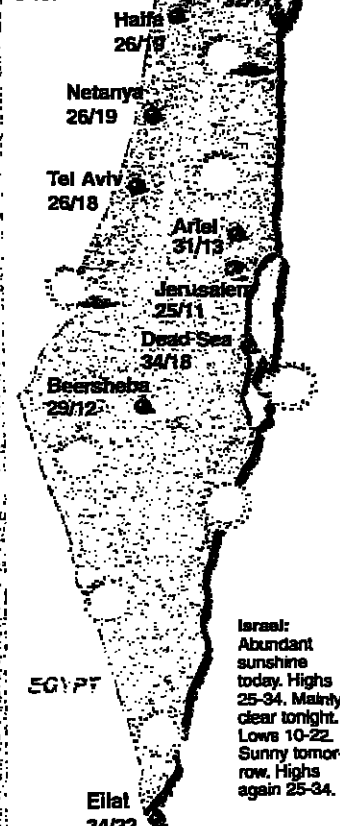
Williams, seeded eighth at Roland Garros in just her fourth event of clay, responded diplomatically.

"I think that she's playing good tennis, and she has every right to say what she wants to," Williams said.

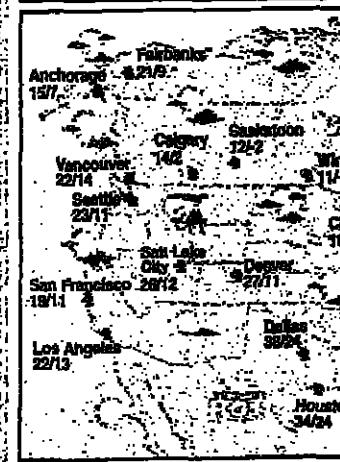
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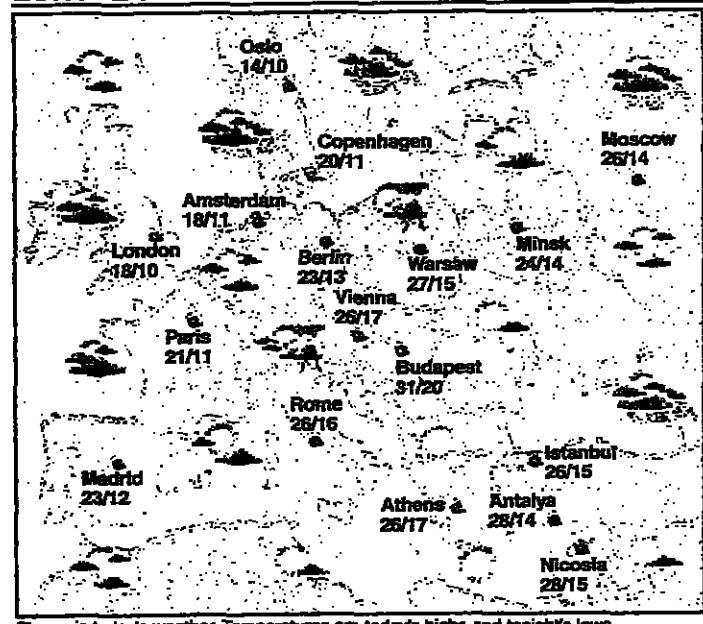
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ariel	31/8	19/5	31/8	19/5	31/8	19/5	31/8	19/5
Beersheva	29/8	12/3	29/8	12/3	29/8	12/3	29/8	12/3
Dead Sea	34/8	18/4	34/8	18/4	34/8	18/4	34/8	18/4
Elon	34/8	22/7	34/8	22/7	34/8	22/7	34/8	22/7
Haifa	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5
Jerusalem	26/7	11/2	26/7	11/2	26/7	11/2	26/7	11/2
Katrin	29/8	11/2	29/8	11/2	29/8	11/2	29/8	11/2
Natanya	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5
Tel Aviv	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5	26/7	16/5
Thiberias	32/8	17/2	32/8	17/2	32/8	17/2	32/8	17/2

City	Today		Thursday		Friday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ankara	18/4	11/2	18/4	11/2	18/4	11/2
Berlin	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Buenos Aires	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Calcutta	32/8	18/4	32/8	18/4	32/8	18/4
Chicago	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5
Frankfurt	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Hong Kong	30/8	27/8	30/8	27/8	30/8	27/8
Johns Hopkins	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
London	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Los Angeles	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Madrid	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Moscow	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Montreal	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5
Paris	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Prague	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Rio de Janeiro	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Rome	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Sydney	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Tokyo	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Toronto	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5
Vancouver	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5	18/8	10/5
Washington	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4
Zurich	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4	27/8	16/4

1550